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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

Empty blood banks halt city surgeries



Blood centers across the country are going bust. With blood stocks dwindling or empty, many patients are having to put off surgery or find blood on their own.

Students and migrant workers have come to the nation's rescue once again. The two groups supply as much as 90 percent of all donor blood. But experts warn that a nation where office workers and officials don't pitch in regularly will never be able to keep up with hospital demand.

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History on rails

The capital's oldest railway station is now a homage to the industry's history.

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Legacy of the Expo

Despite grumbling, the long Expo lines may have been a much-needed lesson in civics.

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used for
meat, money**

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helps expats
to explore**

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the heart
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Charity still eludes Chinese habit



Experts say lack of transparency is one of the reasons for the low donation rate.

CFP Photo

By Han Manman

While China is seeing more new charities opening, they are still struggling to operate on crippling low per capita donations of 25 yuan, according to the 2010 Blue Book on China's Charity.

The report, released by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) Tuesday in Beijing, said the 3.32 billion yuan donated to charities last year represented 0.01 percent of the country's 2009 GDP.

The report compared donations in China to the US, Britain, Brazil and India. It said individuals and companies in China donated the least in terms of the proportion to the country's GDP.

According to the report, Americans donated 2.2 percent of their GDP; India and Brazil donated 0.3 and 0.6 percent respectively.

The report said Guangdong Prov-

ince, Beijing and Sichuan Province were the top three Chinese regions in terms of donations received.

The reports said privately-run enterprises were the major driving force for China's charity donations in 2009, which amounted to 63 percent of enterprises involved in charity last year.

"Private entrepreneurs want to exercise their social responsibility after accumulating huge wealth," said Fan Baojun, president of the China Charity Federation.

However, the country lacks a culture of charity and philanthropy, neither of which is accepted by the community, Fan said.

The Blue Book attributed the deficiency to lack of government support, a shortage of related laws and regulations and the absence of a sense of charity among the public.

"Donating has not become a habit for most Chinese," Fan said.

"Charity should be a habit for common people in daily life rather than the exclusive domain of business people or the rich."

He said charity donations from individuals in 2008 for the first time exceeded those from businesses, as ordinary people played an active role in relief work during the Sichuan earthquake.

The commitment to charity fell off rapidly the next year.

One ongoing problem is a lack of transparency. Fan said that many people who donate money to government charities say they have no idea how or where the money is being spent.

He suggests non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should play a more important role in providing donation related services as their charity programs tend to be more transparent.

Beijing third in list of competitive cities

By Chu Meng

A new report by the International Institute for Urban Development, an independent research organization for world cities, ranked Beijing as China's third best city based on city value, following Shenzhen and Shanghai.

The rankings as published last Friday in "Report on City Value in China" were based on four indexes of the city value, including standard of living, business vitality and competitive power. The standard of living in Shenzhen was three times higher than Beijing's; its business vitality was double.

"A valuable city should have a prosperous environment for business activities. It is roughly evaluated based on the city's GDP growth rate, total social consumption and total investment in fixed assets. In these areas, Beijing still has much room to improve," Lian Yuming, director of the institute, said.

Lian said "growing gaps between the rich and the poor, astronomical housing prices, lagging public transport, the absorption of migrant villages into the city and insufficient education resources are all cancers to Beijing's further development."

Commenting on the capital's world city goals, he likened its situation to Hong Kong and Shanghai in terms of business investment and governmental support. "The core problem is the people. A world city should be somewhere friendly to live, not somewhere consumed by a GDP craze," he said.

The report was published at China Annual Meeting of International Cities Forum, an annual event held by China General Research Center under the State Council.

Highlights of the forum included the World CBD Alliance Summit, the Beijing CBD

International Forum, the International Talents and Regional Development Summit Forum and the Beijing CBD International Financial Forum.

Organizers invited 30 foreign government delegations and 50 domestic government delegations. Ministry officials, foreign ambassadors, multinational corporate senior executives and international experts attended.

"The results of the report are in line with a report issued by the Academy of Social Sciences on the city's competitive position in China this April, which promised high value for international investors and corporations planning a move to China," Christopher Klein, first secretary of the American Embassy in China, said at the forum.



Many promising blueprints for urban regulation during the 12th Five Year Plan were released at the Beijing International Business Festival.

CFP Photo

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Animal performances continue in zoos despite new ban

By Chu Meng

The Beijing Zoo is still conducting animal performances and serving exotic meats at its restaurant despite a ban on both practices by the government last Friday.

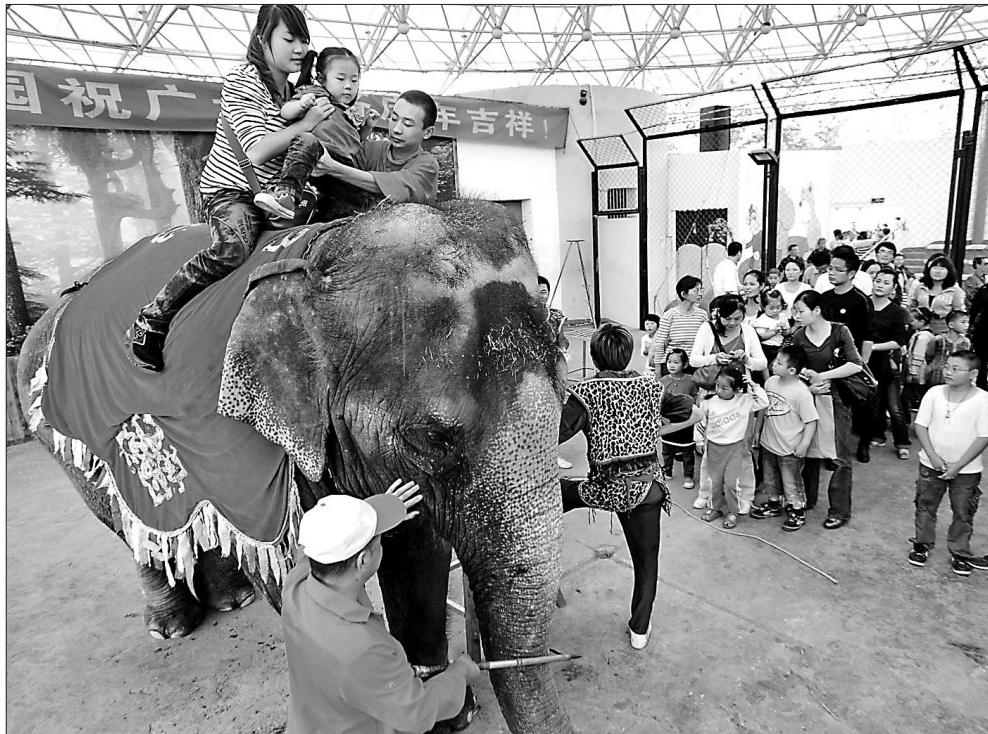
Aquariums too are featuring animal performances and interactive items. For extra money, people can take photos with a penguin, feed a sea turtle or swim with marine life at the Pacific Undersea World Exhibition located below the CCTV tower.

Tickets are still being sold to dolphin performances at the Beijing Zoo Aquarium and Beijing Fu Guo Underwater World is still open. The wildlife restaurant at the Beijing Zoo which serves ostrich, crocodile and more than 10 other wildlife meats is also still open.

Last week, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development issued suggestions on its website as part of an appeal for better management of animal parks and a ban on practices that "go against the public good."

The suggestions included providing veterinary care to the animals and banning performances to "prevent animals from being alarmed or provoked."

In China, zoos are state-owned non-profit organizations. Each first- and second-tier city has a public zoo. These zoos are given a financial allowance to operate in a way that educates the public.



An elephant at the Wuhan Zoo is too exhausted to continue carrying visitors.

CFP Photo

However, market economy transitions have turned some zoos into de facto "for-profit organizations," utilizing animals to pad their income.

"This poor management has caused some animals to end up dying in 'abnormal' conditions and being euthanized after maiming people," Han Mengyan, an

official at the Beijing Museum of Natural History.

Many of the less profitable zoos operate entirely without supervision. Activists have for years railed against poor conditions in private zoos and wildlife parks, and the animal performances in particular are an area of concern.

"Normally, dead animals from public zoos in Northern China are sent to our museum's specimen department for free," Han said. The zoos and museum coordinate on a series of speedy procedures intended to preserve the dead animal as a usable research specimen.

"However, private zoos sell

them to merchants for huge profits. They don't really care if the animals die, so they don't spend anything on veterinary care," Han said.

In March, 11 Siberian tigers died of malnutrition during a three-month period at the Shenyang Forest Wild Animal Zoo, a private zoo in Liaoning Province.

Then in July, a giant panda died at Jinan Zoo in Shandong Province due to poison gas in an air-raid shelter where zoo keepers had left the panda to avoid the summer heat.

The Hong Kong-based Animals Asia Foundation reported in August that showmen frequently whipped and struck animals during shows in China, "forcing them to carry out tricks that go against their natural behavior."

In some parks visitors can pay to feed live chickens or goats to the tigers and lions, but it is unclear whether this practice is classified as a performance.

"Hunger and fatigue may make these wild animals turn dangerous. That is why so many vicious accidents have happened," said Wang Yongchen, a Chinese environmentalist from the Friends of Nature NGO.

A series of scandals this year highlighted bad conditions in wildlife parks and prompted Beijing to draft the country's first animal protection law, which for now remains in discussion.

Drug makers asked to pay for damaged hearts

By Han Manman

Fifteen weight loss pills containing sibutramine have been recalled across the country due to concerns that the pills increased the risk of heart disease. The recall affects the popular Qumei capsules, which account for half the diet drug market on the mainland, and Aoquqing, among others.

While most producers have recalled and destroyed the products, none has proposed a compensation plan for consumers. Local lawyers said they are planning a class-action lawsuit.

The State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) announced its ban on Saturday of all weight-loss products containing sibutramine, a chief ingredient of medicines that alter appetite and metabolism.

Sibutramine was introduced to world markets in 1997 and entered the Chinese market in 2000.

The ban on sibutramine follows the US Food and Drug Administration's decision in early October to remove the drug from the market after tests confirmed that it raised blood pressure and threatened patients' cardiovascular systems.

The European Union, Australia and Canada pulled the drug earlier this year.

According to data released by the SFDA, Chinese hospitals received 298 reports of sibutramine side effects including palpitations of the heart, constipation, dizziness and insomnia between 2004 and 2010.

Geng Qing, a 29-year-old woman, a Qumei user of five years, said the drug producers should take responsibility and compensate former users.

"I trusted the Qumei brand. It was the most popular domestically made weight-loss pill and the movie star Gong Li used to be its spokeswoman," she said. "Even when I once felt my heart beat rapidly and vomited, it never occurred to me that it was because of the drug."

"I think these well-known companies should take the responsibility, otherwise no one will trust their brands," Geng said.

"It's great that they pulled the drugs so quickly, but that doesn't get the manufacturers out of their responsibilities," said Wu Danhong, a law professor at China University of Political Science and Law.

Wu said Taiji Group, owner of the Qumei brand, should set up a compensation fund for consumers like Sanlu Group did for the babies harmed by its tainted milk powder.

Qingdao offers free sea burials to stop cemetery expansion

By Zhang Dongya

Starting October 1, residents of Qingdao, Shandong Province that choose sea burial instead of land burial will have all burial fees waved by the municipal government.

The new regulations allow interested people to sign up at the Qingdao Funeral Parlor. All costs for sea burials will be covered by the city's financial department with a limit of four burials per applicant. Excess burials will be billed at 50 yuan per body.

The service is available only to people with a Qingdao city hukou. Non-residents will be billed 500 yuan per burial.

"In the past month we have seen a three- to fourfold increase in the number of people seeking sea burials," an employee at Qingdao Funeral Parlour surnamed Liu said.

"Many signed up to have a sea burial ceremony for a relative who died 10 to 20 years prior. Others who are more open-minded chose sea burial since it is eco-

nomic and environmentally friendly," Liu said.

Qingdao has provided sea burial services since 1991. As of June, the city held 60 sea burial ceremonies. The bones and ashes of more than 4,000 deceased have been scattered in the ocean.

The Qingdao Bureau of Civil Affairs said sea burial has saved 10 hectares of land.

Qingdao has several advantages for sea burials, including a favorable location, Director of Qingdao Bureau of Civil Affairs Wang Kai said.

As a coastal city, Qingdao has 49 bays and 60 islands along its 730 kilometers of coastline.

Because people in Qingdao live near the sea, it is easy to bury relatives in the ocean, Wang said.

However, most urban residents still opt to store the deceased's bones and ashes in the funeral parlor. In Qingdao, the charge for urn storage ranges from 60 to 200 yuan per year. Those costs can add

up over many decades.

But some still refuse sea burial for traditional reasons.

Most elders prefer to have their bones buried in the land. In an effort to change their minds, the government has tried to persuade them that the sea is part of the country's territory and is still connected to the land.

Some worry that mass dumping of bones and ash may contaminate the seawater, especially in cases where the deceased died because of an infectious disease.

The Qingdao Bureau of Civil Affairs said the area to dispose of bones and ashes was approved by the marine fisheries department. They chose the area because its currents were strong enough to quickly carry away bones and ash without a chance of backflow.

They also pointed out the obvious fact that viruses and bacteria die long before reaching the 800 to 1,200 C temperatures necessary for cremation.

Patients postpone surgeries as blood bank bottoms out

By Li Zhixin

The Beijing Red Cross Blood Center has always run a seasonal shortage during the winter months: this year, winter came early. Blood centers across the country in Wuhan, Nanjing, Chongqing, Changchun, Qingdao, Kunming and Hefei began reporting a shortage of blood for clinical use at the end of last month.

If stocks are not replenished soon, the shortage may reach crisis levels by Spring Festival.

An operation postponed

Yang Jun, 33, is in one of the worst predicaments imaginable for a young husband.

His pregnant wife was diagnosed with mixed connective tissue disorder — an autoimmune disorder affecting women — earlier last month during a routine ultrasound check at Beijing Xuanwu Hospital.

The doctor recommended she have an operation, but to do that they would have to induce premature childbirth.

Both procedures require a blood transfusion because Yang's wife is severely anemic.

The operation was scheduled for October 22, but was canceled only hours before the surgery when it was discovered the hospital lacked enough blood.

"She would need at least 300 milliliters of blood daily. However, the transfusion after birth would leave them with too little blood to do the operation," Yang said.

With no other option, they postponed the necessary surgery.

Wu Jinpei, 43, another patient with heart disease, tried to find other ways to get enough blood for her cardiac bypass, which had already been postponed once.

"I did all the preoperative exams two weeks ago and was told I will need 800 to 1,000 milliliters of blood to deal with operational bleeding. However, the hospital couldn't do my operation on time because they didn't get enough blood from the bank this month," she said.

When the doctor told her the surgery would have to be postponed, Wu asked her friends and relatives to donate to the blood bank. She then applied to send the hospital an equal amount.

"My blood type is AB, the least common type, so I asked around all my relatives and friends and the four with the same type promised to donate 200 milliliters each," she said.

Shortage an emergency

Most hospitals have 3,000 to 3,500 milliliters of each blood type on hand on any given day.

"There are only 300 to 600 milliliters total in our blood bank since the end of last month," said a doctor at Xuanwu Hospital who would not be named.

When doctors told the relatives of patients with less serious conditions that they would have to postpone surgery, some became angry. "They said we were irresponsible for not storing more blood in advance. Their complaints actually interfered with our ability to do our work," she said.

"Some said they planned to file complaints about us."

Normally the hospital orders extra blood the day before a surgery. But with the blood bank now below the warning level, hospitals are being forced to bump patients.

"What little blood we have is being reserved for emergency patients," she said.

The blood center has responded with a new donation campaign.



Blood centers in many cities are unable to meet the needs of patients. Zhang Xiuke/CFP Photo

Shortage of donors

"January, February, July and August are the lean months because university students go on vacation and migrant workers return to the countryside," said Gao Dongying, deputy director of the blood bank.

"We began to run a deficit last month when the temperature crashed. When it's cold outside, people don't want to come out and sit in one of the bloodmobiles. But those are where the city collects 90 percent of its blood."

But Yu Chengpu, an anthropologist at Zhongshan University, said overdependence on the bloodmobile model is the problem.

"Migrant workers and univer-

sity students are the main force of blood donors," he said. "Basic statistical analysis shows that civil servants and office workers account for fewer than 10 percent of the donors. Whenever the students and migrant workers leave, the blood banks crash."

He said the government should call on civil servants and medical workers to set a good example by donating. His plan would send bloodmobiles into communities, government agencies and corporate offices.

"Collecting blood on the street can meet the demand under normal circumstances. We send bloodmobiles to government offices, military bases and companies, and as far as I know the people there are also willing

donors," Gao said.

Experience says otherwise.

According to the center, the demand of clinical blood in Beijing increase rapidly, with an average annual rate of 10 to 15 percent growth. The blood collection rate between January and September averaged 2.9 percent.

The center predicted that 788,000 patients will need blood this year, 880,000 next year and 990,000 by 2012.

"China now has no national system to manage regional blood storages. That last week's embarrassing shortage happened all over the country shows how important it is that we set up some way to link the blood banks," Yu said.

But Gao says the solution is civil education. "If people start to donate regularly, the blood center wouldn't have these problems," she said.

"Chinese people are very helpful. We saw their willingness to donate after the Wenchuan and Yushu earthquakes," she said. "The problem is we haven't found a way to turn this outpouring of good will after a crisis into a daily habit. We can't count on catastrophes."

Many people still worry that blood donation is risky. The center plans to strengthen publicity campaigns in communities and middle and primary schools to educate children and community residents about procedural safety.

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Chinese culture booms in Turkey



Chinese ethnic dancers performed in the opening ceremony of "Experience China in Turkey" in Ankara on October 17.

Photos by Wang Rui



Ethnic art generates stir

The opening show featured Chinese ethnic music and dance by artists from seven Chinese ethnic groups on October 17 in Ankara, the capital of Turkey.

The audience cheered and applauded often for the performers.

"China and Turkey, both with a long history and splendid culture, began friendly visits during the 6th century through the Silk Road," Wang Zhongwei, deputy director of China's State Council Information Office, said at the opening ceremony. "We hope Chinese and Turkish people can enhance mutual understanding and further our friendship by cultural exchange."

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan wrote a letter that was read at the opening ceremony, saying the event will introduce China's unique culture to Turkish people and enable both sides to deepen their ties.

"I enjoyed the diversity of Chinese ethnic music and dance," said Seriye Sezen, a Turkish associate professor from the Public Administration Institute for Turkey and the Middle East. "It shows China has made great efforts to preserve its ethnic culture."

Media cooperation to be enhanced

As a highlight of the event, on October 18, China's State Council Information Office and Turkey's General Directorate of Press and Information signed a plan to establish a mechanism for future exchanges and cooperative projects in mass media.

According to the letter, the two countries will alternately send each other media delegations. The two sides will actively pro-

By Qiu Jiaoning

"Experience China in Turkey" is a multifaceted event featuring Chinese folk performances and official forums. It is currently being held to commemorate the establishment of formal diplomatic ties between China and Turkey; next October will be the 40th anniversary for China-Turkey relations.

Political and economic forums, a media exchange, writ-

ers symposium, Chinese cuisine festival and movie and TV exhibitions are all part of "Experience China in Turkey."

Since Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Turkey early last month, about 100 Chinese artists, writers, academicians and journalists have taken part in this event to help Turkish people better understand China's diversity.

The festival closes with a Chinese movie exhibition later this month.



Murat Karakaya, general director of Turkey's General Directorate of Press and Information (Left) and Wang Zhongwei, deputy director of China's State Council Information Office, signed an intent of cooperation on October 18 in Ankara.



Guests at the Chinese cuisine festival held during "Experience China in Turkey".

mote exchanges and cooperation between media organizations and encourage wider coverage of their political, economic, cultural news and other events.

Murat Karakaya, general director of Turkey's General Directorate of Press and Information, said at the signing ceremony that the relationship between

nalists learn more about China and encourage Chinese journalist to understand, appreciate and report on Turkey."

A delegation of journalists visited Turkey during the event, going to TV stations, news agencies and newspapers in Turkey's three major cities of Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir.

Forums boost mutual understanding

China and Turkey held a political and diplomatic forum in Ankara on October 18 and an economic and trade forum in Istanbul the next day in which officials, academicians and businesspeople shared opinions on developing the two sides' political and economic ties.

Wang noted the booming economic and cultural relations between the two countries and regarded Turkey as a fertile market for Chinese investment. "We should further coordinate and cooperate in issues such as reforming the international financial system and tackling climate change," Wang said.

"As two developing countries, it is important for China and Turkey to strengthen cooperation in transportation, telecommunication, energy and other fields. China is willing to provide support and assistance to Turkish enterprises to enter the Chinese market, especially in western China."

"China and Turkey have similar perspectives on many

regional and international issues," Fatih Ceylan, deputy undersecretary of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, said at the political and diplomatic forum. "The two countries' cooperation and coordination is in the fundamental interest of both peoples and has active influence on world peace and development."

Zhang Yuyan, director of the Institute of World Economics and Politics within the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said Turkey's location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia makes it a country of significant geostrategic importance.

The cooperation could help to level an international order both countries perceive as unfair, Zhang said.

Husnu Ozyegin, chairman of the Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Board and chairman of the Turkish-Chinese Business Council, noted in the economic and trade forum that "Bank of China will soon open a branch in Turkey. The two countries have already started using the lira and yuan in mutual trade."

Ozyegin said the Turkish firm Fiba will complete construction of a shopping mall in Shenyang, Liaoning Province by mid-2011, with a total investment of \$220 million (1.5 billion yuan). The Fiba group also plans to build shopping malls in various Chinese cities.

Ozyegin said Turkey planned to increase trade volume with China from \$20 billion to \$50 billion (340 billion yuan) by 2015.

Curtains fall on Expo

Shanghai world fair drew 72 million visitors

Crowds from across the world have picked up their souvenirs and headed home, giving way to demolition crews. Expo Park's pavilions will soon be dismantled. And now the debate begins over just how much the Expo benefited and impacted China.



Volunteers celebrate in front of the China Pavilion on the final day of the World Expo.

Ren Yumin/IC Photo



The Shanghai World Expo, the nation's biggest tourism event ever, wrapped up last Sunday after introducing a record 72 million visitors to a smorgasbord of cultures and technologies meant to illustrate its theme of urban sustainability.

Highlights included Denmark's famed "Little Mermaid" sculpture, a rooftop cable car ride above a replica alpine meadow at the Swiss pavilion, famous impressionist paintings from the Louvre at the French pavilion and entertainment by Cirque du Soleil courtesy of Canada.

"Thanks to the Expo, people like me who never would have a chance to go abroad can experience the whole world," said Zou Aiguo, a retiree from Jiangxi Province, whose son gave him an Expo tour as a present.

"It's my first time to Shanghai, the most prosperous city in China, and I'm very excited," he said.

World Expositions began with the Great Exhibition of 1851 by Queen Victoria in London, which featured the achievements of the early Industrial Revolution, and have often been the forum for introducing new technologies, foods and innovative ideas.

In keeping with the event's motto, "Better City, Better Life," Shanghai was striving to make its fair a "green" one. It deployed electric buses and carts and installed energy-saving air conditioning and water filters meant to cut use of bottled water. It also recycled rain water and made use of solar power.

Altogether, some 814,000 volunteers, both from overseas and inside China, helped to keep the average 370,000 visitors a day moving to and through the venue relatively smoothly, though it was standing-room only when attendance hit a peak of 1.03 million on October 16.

Now, all but a handful of the more than



Staff from the Denmark Pavilion gathered at the Little Mermaid statue Monday.

Zhang Suoqing/IC Photo

200 structures built in the vast plazas along the banks of Shanghai's Huangpu River, former shipyards and steel works destined to become prime real estate, must be dismantled and recycled or otherwise disposed of.

Several of the pavilions were sold outright and will be moved to other countries or provinces in China to serve as museums or landmarks.

In recent weeks, many national pavilions began selling off their remaining souvenirs and other miscellany as they prepared to shut down.

(Associated Press)

The third eye

Italian expert finds touring Expo a unique experience

For Francesca Cusumano, a Rome-based communications expert, visiting the Shanghai Expo was a unique experience, and what impressed her most was the enthusiasm displayed by Chinese visitors during the six-month event.

"I will always remember the atmosphere and enthusiasm of the Chinese people, their interest and curiosity in discovering the pavilions of the other countries and passion in seeing the many things exposed," Francesca, who helped set up a modern architecture exhibition in the Italian pavilion, told Xinhua on Monday.

Francesca described the daily, incredible flow of visitors as "coming in waves," saying she will never forget the long rows of people lining up at the entrance of the Expo, especially Chinese people.

She believed the theme of the Expo, "Better City, Better Life," was majestically represented by all participants. "The public was very much involved in the topic," helping to spread a greater awareness on such important issues as environmental sustainability and urban well-being.

Visitors gave positive feedback to the dynamic and stimulating Shanghai World Expo, as it attracted them with the notion of quality of life, according to Francesca, who described Shanghai as "an incredible, modern city that has left me in awe, full of lights, color and life."

She said Shanghai has been transformed into "the futurist, new face of China."

Francesca also praised the logistics of the World Expo, the scenery and choreography of the pavilions, saying she was impressed by "the perfect organizational skills of the Chinese, by what the Chinese were able to create. Everything followed a stable order and tidiness."

"The Expo site, but also the whole of Shanghai, was clean. No rubbish, no dirt. I was not expecting the city to be so shiny," she said.

Francesca said her favorite pavilion was the British one. "I loved the enormous sea-urchin shape sculpture, I found it very symbolic."

She had the chance as well to witness the incredible appeal of the Italian pavilion.

"Visitors paid homage to it and were fascinated by the very best of the Made in Italy showcased there."

(Xinhua News Agency)



Industrial analysts say the competition between Qihoo 360 and QQ will produce no winner.
IC photo

Internet giants battle over security

By Wang Yu

Since mid-October, Chinese Internet users have been caught in a flame war between Tencent and Qihoo 360 – the country's top Internet application providers.

Computers running both Tencent QQ and 360 Security Center are bombarded with pop-ups accusing the other application maker of unfair competition.

Tencent's QQ instant messenger is the most popular online application on Chinese computers. According to the company's Q2 financial report for 2010, its software is installed on more than 90 percent of China's computers.

360 Security Center is the second most popular for its free anti-virus software. The company estimates that its software is installed on more than 250 million Chinese computers.

In September, 360 released a new Privacy Protector plug-in for its suite and alerted users that QQ was being used to mine for and report a user's private data to Tencent.

Tencent rallied Kingsoft, Baidu, Maxthon and Keniu to accuse 360 of starting anti-competitive rumors.

In an online survey conducted by 163.com, more than 70 percent of respondents said they would drop QQ if the two programs conflicted.



Chinese netizens are getting caught up in the cat-fight in the past several months.

CFP Photo

Chinese Internet security market. Xie Wen, an internet analyst, said that although the conflict is supposedly about protecting users' privacy, the companies are actually battling for market dominance.

On Wednesday evening, Tencent stopped its service on computers which have been installed with 360 software. The new move soon enraged Internet users.

"Similar things have happened before. Most insiders are used to these spats," says Zhang Yan, an IT reporter.

Market watch

Internet economy has huge potential

The battle between 360 and QQ may have cast a shadow over the country's Internet industry, but experts who participated in the recent conference "China 2.0: The Rise of a Digital Superpower" believe the Internet economy still has much room for development.

They also said the Internet economy will become a driving force of economic growth.

Xu Rongsheng, a scientist and one of the pioneers of China's Internet applications, said the introduction of the Internet in 1993 seemed to be an "information explosion." Two years later, the public network service was opened in Beijing.

Experts expect that the Chinese netizen population will become double the size of the US's by early 2011.

Baidu, Tencent and some other Chinese Internet firms lead the world Internet industry in competitiveness and financial support.

Xu said China has become a digital superpower, but only in terms of the number of Internet users. From the standpoint of innovation, management and network security it has a long way to go.

With an increasingly wide range of applications, the Internet will likely specialize in different directions, Ding Jian, managing director of GSR Ventures, told the conference.

Experts present said widespread use will continue to bring new potential to the Internet.

Youku CEO and President Gu Yongqiang said the development of online video is forcing traditional media to form new cooperations with its digital competitors.

Dave Clark, president of BDA (China), predicted it will soon slash the cost of business operations and bring more flexibility to life and work schedules.

(Agencies)

Nation's NASDAQ an unqualified success

By Huang Daochen

ChiNext, the country's NASDAQ-style stock exchange for start-ups, appeared to be a success this past weekend – the anniversary of its founding.

While many acknowledge the importance of ChiNext as a fund-raising channel for small- and medium-size companies, many grumble about the board's underperformance and high share prices.

Shang Fulin, head of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, told a recent industrial conference that the government will establish a consultative committee of 15 experts to promote the board's development.

Statistics from the Shenzhen Stock Exchange show that the ChiNext raised 94.8 billion yuan (\$14 billion) for 134 companies during the past 12 months.

This is the most important thing to ever happen in the country's capital markets, said Joseph Yang, an industrial analyst at Standard Chartered Bank in Beijing. "Without the board, I believe those 134 companies and hundreds more queuing up for ChiNext IPOs would be stuck struggling with a shortage of growth funds," he said.

Yang said the board has helped private capital flow into private companies. "For the first time, the retail investors know more accurately where they should put their money for the best opportunities," he said.

But the Shenzhen-based board was also criticized for underperforming.

Speculation over initial public offerings (IPO) by some venture capital firms and retail investors topped the concerns. This Monday, 33 billion yuan of ChiNext shares became tradable as the lockup ended. Many worry a new flood of executives and investors will shake the market.

"They got the shares at relatively low costs and care more about how much and when they can profit most, instead of caring about what the company is actually worth," Yang said.

Yang said IPO speculation has become a phenomenon in the ChiNext market.

At its first anniversary, ChiNext was labeled a creation hub for new billionaires.

The recent Hurun report said the creation of ChiNext helped spark a jump in the number of rich Chinese. About 500 people worth 100 million yuan each were made by ChiNext over the past year. Most were totally unknown before.

But billionaire creation should not be the function of ChiNext, Yang said.

"It is the investors who bid up the share price, and by doing so, allow companies to ensure investors earn the highest risk-adjusted return," Yang said. "This is what ChiNext makes possible."

Italian pop musician gives first Asian solo concert in Beijing

By Chu Meng

Claudio Baglioni, one of the most appreciated pop musicians in Italy, gave his first solo concert in Asia Tuesday at the Italian Cultural Center in Beijing.

Baglioni, who is also a composer, author and architect, is currently in the middle of a one-year world concert tour called "One World 2010."

Slim and wearing a white suit with white shoes, the 60-year-old Baglioni, a former male stripper in Milan, mesmerized the audience.

"You know, every young artist has his or her bitter start at the beginning, singing in shabby cafes or dancing in night clubs," Baglioni said. "I was lucky to get out of [the strip club] soon and begin to build up my real career."

Baglioni composed the 1998 Italian national soccer team hymn and the

hymns for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy and the 1994 and 2009 World Swimming Championships. He performed at the closing ceremony of the Shanghai Expo on October 31 as a special guest.

His three-hour concert in Beijing included 30 Italian folk and pop songs. It was a meeting of different musical styles, the mixing of overtures, preludes and interludes with catchy choruses and rhymes. It was a fusion of pop, rock, classical and jazz.

As a 16-year-old, Baglioni completed his first opera, a suite based on the poem "Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe. Three years later, his first album *Claudio Baglioni* was released. Since, Baglioni has published 14 original albums and three books.

Baglioni's current tour began on his 60th birthday in March in Australia.

lia. He will sing on 12 countries in five continents over one year.

Baglioni, exercising his inner architect, insists on designing his own sets in the theater. "I am particularly picky about stage spotting, light and sound effects," he said.

He loves to employ architectural models or sculptures on the stage.

An elegant Fazioli grand piano also always accompanies him, even if it costs an arm and a leg to transport. "I am proud of it, so I have to bring it with me everywhere," he said.

Baglioni said he drew inspiration from the Beijing Olympics motto of "One World, One Dream" when he devised his concert tour. He said the words energized him.

"These words gave voice to such a simple idea in a clear and profound way," he said. "And so I decided to call my tour 'One World.'"



Italian musician Claudio Baglioni had his solo concert in Beijing.

Photo provided by Italian Embassy

Outsider-turned-insider shares tips for exploring the city

By Liang Meilan

Many visitors to Beijing would love to explore this city in-depth, beyond all the normal tourist hot-spots. But unfamiliarity with the city and the language can make it hard.

A small travel service firm called Bespoke Beijing (bespoke-beijing.com) is out to

make it easier.

Sarah Keenlyside, a 28-year-old from London and former *Sunday Times* journalist, founded the firm two years ago with her boyfriend. Before 2005, when her boyfriend gave her a trip to China as the birthday present, she had never set foot in the country.

After her two-week stay, she dreamed of coming back. "This was during a time when I was really sick of London and ready to leave. And I found China a challenging and adventurous place that I wanted to move to," Keenlyside said.

An opportunity came seven months later when her boyfriend, who was then appointed the chief editor of *Time Out Beijing*, was sent to Beijing. It was October 2005, and she came to help him by acting as an editor for columns and restaurant reviews.

She really got to know the city through her four years as editor. "It's a really good way to get to know the city because every time you're going to different places, meeting different people or discovering new restaurants," Keenlyside said. "And I really liked the city's well-planned layout."

In her last year with the magazine, she wrote a travel column and compiled the *Time Out* guide to Beijing. She invested lots of time and effort in her research.

Keenlyside found that many of her friends would call her up asking for advice about where to go and what to do. She became an information desk, essentially.

"Gradually, friends of my friends got used to contacting me

for help, like bargaining with taxi drivers, and for restaurant and bar recommendations."

Knowing full well the fears and frustrations of traveling in a foreign country, Keenlyside wanted to do something to help out tourists in Beijing. "I kept thinking that if they didn't have a friend, who could they turn to for help?" she said. Guidebooks go out of date too fast, and there's a lot of misleading information on the Internet.

The idea of starting a firm offering inexpensive travel tips entered her mind. She set out to do it at the end of 2008 and began designing the first product, a pocket guide that can be customized for different needs.

The guide is a brochure of cards with content like interesting spots and hotel information, bound with a traditional red ribbon. Vegetarians can also find a specialized guide that introduces the city's vegetarian restaurants.

Addresses are provided in pinyin, and driving directions are offered in case taxi drivers get lost.

"Also, we recommend spots for different types of tourists who have different budgets, and don't merely list the popular places like the Forbidden City or Summer Palace,"



Sarah Keenlyside

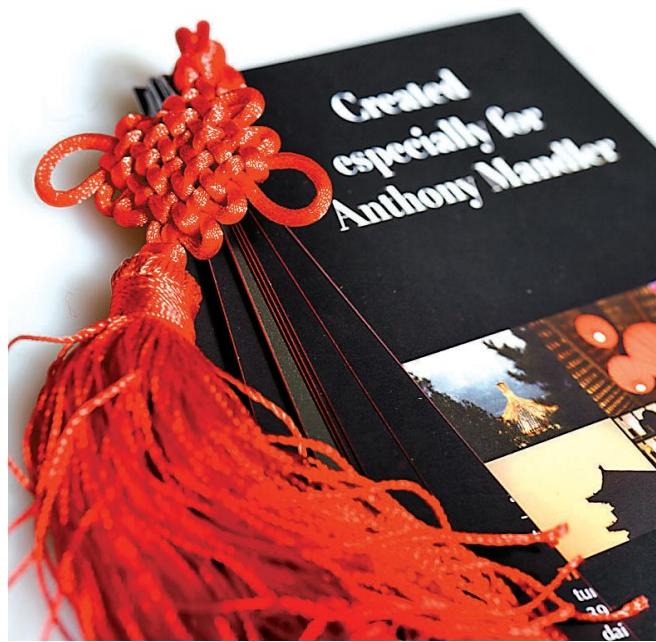
Keenlyside said. "Less-traveled yet interesting places are also included, since foreign visitors like to explore a city by themselves – we just offer some support."

Keenlyside's package also offers a special rented cell phone with useful numbers inside. "It comes with a special SIM card so people can make international calls at a lower fee," she said.

To find more places to recommend, Keenlyside goes out to new places during her spare time. "I want to help people find appealing places that reflect the real Beijing," she said.

Bespoke Beijing is slowly gaining recognition among the expat community. "I'm happy to see there are many repeat customers who come back to me," Keenlyside said.

"This is a big step for me because I'd never thought of myself as a businesswoman, since I was a journalist," she said. "But China has inspired me to realize that people can do anything here."



Bespoke Beijing's personalized tour guide

Photos provided by Sarah Keenlyside

Expo pavilions - now what?

Australian, British embassies, and others, selling off pieces for good cause

By Zhao Hongyi

Two pieces of art created on a pair of large steel panels from the newly decommissioned Australian Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo are displayed this weekend at the Red Gate Gallery in Beijing, and will remain there until November 14.

The pieces were auctioned off on Saturday. Proceeds will go to the Xingren Primary School in Sichuan Province and the Epenarra Primary School in Australia's Northern Territory, according to sources from the Australian embassy.

The two were made by Guy Maestri and Frances Belle Parker, members of a delegation of seven Australian indigenous and emerging artists currently on tour in China as part of Imagine Australia.

Imagine Australia is a year-long celebration of Australian arts and culture in China, organized by the Australian embassy. Other events include the Australian film tour in Shaanxi Province. Translations

of Australian books, operas, seminars and other performances have been collected on the website imagineaustralia.net.

The Australian artists traveled west to less developed parts of the country. They visited earthquake-stricken regions and were inspired to create art that can generate money for people in these places.

In Shanghai, the artists collaborated with Bluescope, the steel provider for the Australian Pavilion, and struck an agreement with the help of the Australian embassy to donate pieces of art.

They also donated two other steel-panel art pieces to the governments of China and Australia.

The British Pavilion is auctioning the seeds from its pavilion on Taobao. The British embassy said the proceeds will be donated to charity.

Each of the UK Pavilion's rods contain seeds from the Millennium Seed Bank Project, an international effort to raise

awareness of the threat posed to biodiversity by rapid urban development.

Some rods will be sent to schools involved in the UK's green schools project, along with an education pack ensuring tomorrow's generation learns about the importance of biodiversity.

Other rods will be presented to the Kunming Botanical Institute and Kew Gardens in honor of their effort to protect biodiversity.

The Norwegian Pavilion, made of timber from Norway and bamboo from China, will be moved to Chongqing for permanent display. The pavilion symbolizes the Scandinavian lifestyle, stresses the concept of nature and a low-carbon way of life.

Canada has turned to the public auction platform jinmajia.com to sell accessories from its pavilion, including 1,200 tons of steel, kitchen equipment, furniture and electric appliances.



One of the works auctioned
Photo provided by
[Imagineaustralia.com](http://imagineaustralia.com)

EU-financed environment observation focuses on carbon-cycle and Yellow Sea

By Liang Meilan

Shortly before the Cancun talks at the Climate Change Convention, ministers and senior officials from governments and organizations that constitute the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) met in Beijing yesterday and today to strengthen global cooperation in monitoring the planet's environment and natural resources.

EU-supported projects that focus on the carbon cycle and the Yellow Sea were hailed as significant developments.

Monitoring carbon was the most heatedly discussed issue during this seventh GEO Ministerial. "Understanding the global carbon cycle is a major scientific challenge. The lack of data about how much carbon is emitted and how much is absorbed by 'sinks' such as forests and oceans is a particular

cause of uncertainty," said Gary Richards, project officer of the Forest Carbon Flows Monitoring project.

The EU-financed Coordination Action Carbon Observing System (COCOS) project sets a good example in improving the exchange of data sets between separate projects and to use datasets together with other continental and basin scale projects and programs.

"The research and harmonization work developed in this project will contribute significantly to building an integrated global approach that promotes close collaboration with the international carbon cycle research community," said project officer Michiel van der Molen.

Another key issue that the Ministerial aims to deal with is data sharing principles. Governments and organizations par-

ticipating in the summit are being encouraged to announce improved international access to specific in situ and space-based data sets.

The introduction of the practice of the Yellow Sea Observation, Forecasting and Information System (YEOS), also a EU-supported project jointly operated by organizations from China and Korea, was regarded as a positive development.

YEOS demonstrated its system in August 2008, when all Olympic yacht events were in Yellow Sea waters.

Other issues discussed on the agenda include conserving biodiversity, understanding earthquake risks and protecting public health.

More than 20 governmental ministers and 500 leading European and international

experts took part in the forum, and a number of the GEO activities and outputs discussed support the goals of international conferences such as the upcoming Cancun Climate Change Convention.

A recent significant effort GEO is making is to build the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) according to a 10-year implementation plan that runs through 2015. The Beijing Ministerial marks the halfway point in this plan and will give political leaders an opportunity to assess progress and set priorities.

With 83 governments, the European Commission and 58 intergovernmental and international organizations, GEO provides the world's premiere forum for coordinating Earth observation strategies, investments and operations.

China furthers satellite cooperation with Pakistan

By Zhang Dongya

Pakistan ambassador Masood Khan signed a loan agreement on behalf of the Economic Affairs Division of Pakistan with the Export-Import Bank of China last Friday in Beijing for control of a satellite called Paksat-1R.

The contract for the project was signed by the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), the Pakistan national space agency and China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC), in the presence of Pakistan President Asif Zardari, in Beijing in 2008. Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani signed a contract for ground control of the satellite when he visited China last October.

According to the contract, China will be responsible for the design, manufacture, integration, testing, launch and in-orbit delivery of the satellite for SUPARCO, as well as related ground facilities.

PakSat-1R is scheduled to be launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province on August 14, 2011. The "R" in the name stands for "replacement," as it will replace the current telecommunication satellite PakSat 1, which was developed by Hughes System, a US company.

The PakSat 1 will be inactive next year.

China and Pakistan reached a framework loan agreement in June. Under the agreement, the Chinese government would provide 86.5 million yuan in loans for the ground control segment.

"The agreement has further promoted Pakistan-China cooperation in the field of science and technology, and the satellite will become a symbol of Pakistan-China friendship," Khan said.

He said the project would bring immense economic benefits to Pakistan when it is completed.

The PakSat-1R is the third communications satellite that China's space industry has signed for an international customer.

Pakistan and China share a long history of space technology cooperation. Pakistan's first low-orbit satellite, Badr-1, was launched by China in 1990.

The two countries have continued to enhance their cooperation in peaceful applications of space technology under an agreement signed in 1991.

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BEIJING TODAY Editor: Han Manman Designer: Zhao Yan

Making money to do good

A social business tries to help more non-profit organizations

By Annie Wei

A charity party was held at Opposite House in Sanlitun on October 13, attracting 80 guests.

The organizers, Piech Asia Enterprises (PAE) Design Talent and PAE Halo, suggested guests donate at least 150 yuan to the Halo Fund, which supports nonprofit organizations working on critical issues in China.

This was also the launch party for the organizer's Socially Conscious Lifestyle Brand. Limited edition Halo messenger bags were auctioned off, with proceeds going to the fund.

More than 8,000 yuan was raised, a positive sign for the six-month-old PAE Halo, the philanthropic division of Piech Asia Enterprises (PAE), whose mission is to help build more efficient non-profit organizations in China.

"PAE is not a non-profit organization," said Ellen Luo, the managing director of PAE Halo. "It's a social business." It is registered in Hong Kong but operates in Beijing. As a wholly foreign-invested company, it pays taxes as required.

In China, social business is a fairly new concept compared to other kinds of philanthropic organizations like NGOs.

NGOs – funding difficulties

Beijing has the most NGOs in China because it has so many government authorities, media and potential sponsors.

However, running an NGO is not easy. To register an NGO in China, one has to first find a government sponsor. Without registering, NGOs cannot accept domestic donations.

Even successful NGOs such as One Foundation, founded by actor Jet Lee and considered the most resourceful NGO, encounter difficulties. One Foundation recently announced that it may suspend activities. Although it can collect public donations under the supervision of China Red Cross, it does not have an independent account, leading donors to doubt its financial transparency.

Most foundations or NGOs are registered in Hong Kong and rely solely on overseas donations. But getting funding abroad is getting more and more difficult.

"When you try to apply for funding to eliminate poverty in China's rural areas, they think you must be kidding to suggest China needs money raised in other countries," said Li Zhiguo of VSO, a UK charity that sends volunteers to work abroad with full financial support.

Most of VSO's funding is from DFID, a UK government department responsible for promotion and the reduction of poverty.

As China generates more and more money, "DFID thinks China has the potential to rise enough to solve its problems," Li said.



The launch party of PAE-Halo, a philanthropic division of PAE, gathered 80 guests at Punk and raised 8,000 yuan.

Photo provided by PAE-Halo



A social business

More and more people, however, are accepting the challenges to work for NGOs and non-profit organizations.

After living in Beijing for eight years, former Swiss journalist Toni Piech, 32, wanted to do something different. Two years ago, combining his interest in entrepreneurship and his belief in giving back to the community, he created PAE.

"There is a growing sense of responsibility in China to care and give back on an individual level," Piech said. "Being successful isn't enough to make people happy, and a growing number of young professionals realize that. People at our company provide a perfect example that both are possible, being successful and still doing good."

Piech said he was no good



Sales revenues from bags designed by PAE-Design Talent will go to the Halo fund. Each bag's retail price is 1,888 yuan.

Photos by Beijing Center of Photography

at running an NGO or implementing business ideas, "but at PAE, the ultimate goal of making money is for a good cause."

"All of [the money], not just some," he added.

PAE currently has two branches, PAE Media and PAE

refers to a non-loss, non-dividend company designed to address social objectives.

Make money and do good

After six months, Halo started working with more members of the community and doing things.

Last week, PAE-Halo gathered 10,000 yuan for two orphans who needed surgery to correct a cleft lip. They also volunteer in Huiling – a chain of homes for people with mental disabilities – to see how to achieve things on children's wish list.

Luo said Halo aims to give resources to other NGOs that might be able to initiate interesting projects.

"It's not just about money, it's about the PAE network," she said. All PAE staff members are happy to volunteer in various projects.

Nathan Zhang, founder of Brandnū, a charity shop that sells textiles and embroideries made by women living in rural areas, has talked to Halo about developing a social business plan.

"The biggest problem for the charity shop is it lacks money," Zhang said. He wants to build the shop into a social business. He is looking for more sustainable development projects that help women from rural areas.

In the next six months, Luo said they will focus on raising money for the Halo fund, which is scheduled to launch in March 2011. The fund will be used for organizations that support underserved but critical projects in the country.

Anyone interested in applying should visit pae-halo.com.

Design Talent. PAE Media makes brand-driven shows in China; PAE Design Talent is a design recruitment firm that matches designers of all kinds to domestic and multinationals in China.

The media company was based on Piech's former job. He and his colleagues introduced a German TV show *Wanna Challenge?* to CCTV. The show has been running on CCTV3 on primetime for years now.

In Piech's business model, the profit created from PAE Media and PAE Design Talents will go to PAE Halo, which is allocating funds for different non-profit objectives.

"Halo sounds like CSR (corporation social responsibility), but we are different," said Ellen Luo.

CSR helps a profit-driven corporation remember its social duty, while a social business

China Acrobatic Troupe opens secrets to the public

By Chu Meng

On Monday, the training halls of the world-famous China National Acrobatic Troupe opened to the public as part of the troupe's 60th anniversary celebration.

Chinese acrobats have often been a must-see for international tourists. Zhang Chunli, director of the troupe's administrative office, said interest in the troupe is 10 times greater among foreigners than locals.

From conversations with audience members through the years, the troupe learned that many people would like to see the acrobats practice their routines.

This led Zhang Hong, president of the troupe, to open the doors of the troupe's two biggest training halls.

Visitors can watch the acrobats practice daily routines and parts of award-winning shows. The troupe won the Golden Clown Award at the International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo and the President Award at the 26th International Circus Festival of Tomorrow in France in 2009.

Zhang said visitors can also learn some elementary skills under the guidance of professionals. "Fans can also join our short-term training courses that last one to three months," she said.

The practice facilities are open every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for four hours. Advance reservation is required. Interested parties should call 6780 2626 ext. 1112 to book a visit one week in advance.

The troupe was founded by the central



Rehearsal halls of the China National Acrobatic Troupe have opened to the public.
Photo by Cui Guanyi/CFP

government on October 20, 1950. It has won nearly 50 top awards in domestic and international competitions. As ambassadors of public diplomacy, the members of the troupe have visited more than 110 countries and regions.

In 1999, the troupe set up an acrobatic school in Beijing and began to train future professional acrobats. The school now also enrolls foreign students.

China Acrobatic Troupe

Where: 9 Jian'an Jie, Beijing economic development zone, Yizhuang District

Getting there: Take bus No. 976 or 927 from Guomao, get off at the Zhongguo Zajituan station

Cost: Free

Open: 9-11 am and 2-4 pm, every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Tel: 6780 2626 ext. 1125

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyi@ynet.com

I learned several days earlier that indoor heating will be turned on at the beginning of this month. On what day, exactly?

According to the most recent report from the meteorological department, since the average temperature is still higher than 5 C, the heat will come on at the same time as last year, which is November 15.

I'd like to find my favorite food fondue savoyarde. Do any restaurants offer this dish?

Not many restaurants in Beijing have this dish, but we do know of two in particular: Le Cabernet (6512 8833) and La Taverne (6551 8967). Alternatively, if you can cook at home, go to Jenny Lou (6501 6249) at 1 Nongzhanguan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District to find authentic raw fondue.

Do you know where can I find a wooden coat rack? I found metal ones at IKEA but I need more artistic ones to go with my European-style furniture.

There are several reputable shops on Taobao that you can try. They offer both traditional and modern wooden racks in various styles, some that can be fixed on the wall and some that double as a floor lamp. Try shop57057183.taobao.com, shop33499160.taobao.com and qwts.taobao.com. All these shops offer home delivery for an extra 20 yuan.

I've learned that the blood shortage problem is really serious in Beijing, so I'd like to donate. Where can I go to do it?

You can find a Red Cross blood collecting vehicle beside the Dongzhimen bus terminal, just outside Exit B of the Dongzhimen subway station. The vehicle is open from 10 am to 5 pm. You can donate 200 to 400 milliliters each time, twice a year.

(By Liang Meilan)

Playplaces around town to drop the kids off

By Han Manman

As middle-class families spend more on their children's development, more play and learning centers are opening in Beijing. Parents are especially fond of these centers during the winter because kids can no longer play outdoors.

A new center opened last Friday in the CBD area, occupying the entire third floor of the Beijing Landgent Center. It caters to 2 to 12 year-olds. It includes a kids' park, Disney English training center, piano training and education services.

There are several games in the kids' park, including a ball pool, bouncy bed, gun game and sponge castle.

Where: 3rd floor of Landgent Center, 20 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District; accessible underground from the Shuangjing station on subway Line 10.

Open: 10 am - 9 pm

Tel: 5721 8565

Cost: 38 yuan per kid



Children's cooking classes are getting popular among urban dwellers.
CFP Photo

Where: 5 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6506 9066

Cost: 25 yuan per kid

Peapod Baby

Founded by expat mom Shannon Byers, who was unable to find a children's center that truly met her daughter's needs, Peapod Baby provides kinder music, baby art classes, and play groups for toddlers through age 4. They also offer dance classes for kids ages 2 to 6, and English classes for those ages 3 to 13.

Where: Bldg. 1A-209, China Central Place Apartments, 6 Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 15010771929

Other play and learning centers around the city

Family Box Educational and Recreational Center

Family Box is a British family center that combines education and recreation. Children up to age 12 and their families can play in the three-story building that has 6,000 square meters of floor space. Kids will enjoy a large climbing frame, Mickey Mouse play area, swimming pool, sensory room, soft island and craft room. There are also courses and activities based on the UK early-years curriculum.

Where: Building 4, 51 Wangjing Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6478 6163

Cost: 320 yuan (2 adults, 1 child)

Cheer Kids Play Park

The park is a playground with more than 5,000 square meters of soft equipment with modern, intellectual games.

A "crazy bomb" area can give children an understanding of modern electric facilities. The child can make trinkets in the DIY area. Younger babies will learn good habits in a little kitchen. The center also has rolling coconut palms, a giant pirate ship and tropical fish.

Where: 3rd floor, Huolidongfang Outlets, 1 Yaojiayuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5119 3019

Cost: 150 yuan (2 adults, 1 child)

Yu Kids Island

Yu Kids Island is for kids from 6 months to 6 years old. There is a ball pit, a balloon

cage, electric seesaws, slides, a bouncy gym, a ride on a coconut tree, a building block area with hundreds of colorful blocks and lots of assorted playground equipment, all in an open area with padded floors. The ball pit and the balloon cage are particularly big hits with kids.

Where: 4th floor, South Building, The Place, 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8595 1755

Cost: 50 yuan per kid

Fun Dazzle

Fun Dazzle, or Fan Dou Le, is an amusement center that specializes in entertaining children under the age of 14. Foam balls and lots of play equipment will keep the kids busy.

The price of being un

By Wang Yu

For aspiring photographers – or more accurately, artists – there are usually two roads to building a career. They can start as the assistant of a successful photographer, or they can start building their underground.

The former is universally adopted because it is supported by the business chain – from equipment manufacturers to the media and collectors. But the struggle to balance art and commercial photography is what drives many young talents to remain in the niche.

It takes a unique style to survive in the competitive scene, but that is where 23-year-old photographer Ren Hang shines.

Ren is already popular in Beijing's underground culture for his sensitive and erotic works. In the one year since he left college he has built an impressive reputation, shooting mainstream art and fashion. But like many of his peers, he is still waiting for mainstream acceptance.

A sensitive soul

Ren lost his confidence before speaking to *Beijing Today*. Even though this reporter spoke to him online many times, he was still afraid to meet someone new.

Part of that may be due to a lack of confidence in his appearance.

Ren looks much like any ordinary student on the campus of Communication University of China, where the interview took place. It is hard to connect his appearance with his erotic works, where all sorts of men and women are willing to take off their clothes and crouch in weird positions.

For his lens, models dare to expose their most private parts. Filtered by the unique colors of his film, the final images have received as much praise for their bravery in challenging social acceptance as condemnation for being filthy.

"The people who hate my photos also hate me.

Some describe me as a desperate and sex-crazed person living a chaotic life, and they have no problem with humiliating me to my face," Ren says.

But friends see the young man as shy and sensitive. His wild side exists only in photographs, a trait perhaps influenced by the Japanese artist Araki Nobuyoshi. Naked bodies and absurd, mysterious atmospheres are beautiful to Araki fans. For Ren, the nudes are a way to discuss love.

And Ren hopes people will find warmth and love in his photos.

"Two years ago I used to be too sensitive and a single song from *Trainspotting* would make me lose it on the street and end up gorging on soup at dinner. Now I've found love and things are better. But my photos aren't about that kind of love between two people. They are about a love that can be passed from one viewer to another," Ren says.

Shortcut to fame

There is one thing in common for those who want to build a reputation in the mainstream or underground scene – they need an outstanding name.

Before graduation, Ren was already shooting photos for commercial clients. Last April he participated in an exhibition with other artists in a tunnel in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province. Since then, more exhibition organizers have been coming from all over the country after Ren's unique style.

But his favorites can never be shown to the public.

"That is very painful. The organizers don't agree to show what I select because they are afraid the exhibition will be shut down by city officials. My photos always end up banned. The only time they survived was at Caochangdi," Ren says.

The first shoot with a nude model was made during last winter vacation in his hometown of Changchun.



underground

The models were Ren's high school classmates who thought it was a fun experience. While none of the photos from the shoot were ever released, Ren had found his niche.

And then he found Xiaona, the young woman and long-time model most prominent in his works. Xiaona was willing to bare all, but worried her mother would see the photos. Ren covers the sensitive parts before putting his photos on the Internet, though once a set of full nudes was stolen during an exhibition.

Today, more and more people are becoming Ren's subjects. Most are young and curious to see how they will look through the photographer's lens, even if they don't agree to a public display.

"I know nothing about fashion or how to dress people well, so I prefer my subjects to be naked. I'm glad there are people willing to do that for me," Ren says.

Balancing

But for everyone, it's impossible to make a living on art alone.

For primary income, Ren works as the editor of an art magazine. For extra money, he also shoots photos for magazines like *FHM* and *Kaila*, an online magazine made by actress and director Xu Jinglei.

His fallback is an online store where he sells vintage clothes that he has collected on his travels.

"I tried to shoot fashion photos several times earlier this year but failed. I feel strange when holding a digital camera and facing a shining model wearing brand-name clothes. It's hard to keep a balance – I'm afraid I may lose my passion for photography if I get too commercial," Ren says.

Ren's photos have attracted the attention of Western collectors abroad. He was also invited to shoot short films for a German indie film festival.

While the art scene in China offers many opportunities to youths, Ren says there are still too few to be optimistic. The chief editor of the magazine Ren works for once advised him to change his style and pander to the market.

"His suggestion is reasonable, but I think the scene will find value in my work in the long run," Ren says.

Today he is cooperating with a gallery on a series of photos of local rock stars. Because Ren is still part of the underground, bands never refuse his ideas even if it means climbing the mountains around Beijing in January – while naked, of course.

"I want many things. Especially money and success. You can't move forward without doubting yourself and wondering, am I qualified to be successful? But when I pick up my camera I forget all this," Ren says.

"It's great to be able to be yourself while working for a bright future with friends."



Ren Hang, the 23-year-old photographer, is popular in Beijing's underground culture for his sensitive and erotic works.

Photos provided by Ren Hang

On the road

German's travelogue from Hamburg to Shanghai

By He Jianwei

"Traveling is not only a means of drawing inspiration for writers, but also a way to cast away prejudice upon another culture," Tina Uebel said during an October 24 presentation on her two-month adventure at the library of Goethe-Institut China.

In early September, Uebel arrived in Shanghai at the invitation of the Shanghai Writers Association for its 2010 Shanghai Writing Program. The goal of the program is to let Western writers experience Shanghai and Chinese literature, and to help them understand the modern country.

Uebel decided to take a train to Shanghai to attend. "We live in a time of pseudo-globalization. Although technology makes the planet smaller and provides economical and fast transport, we have lost the feeling of time," Uebel said. "When we board a plane and get off at a similar airport, we have no idea about how the landscapes, peoples and cultures changed along the trip."

But Uebel did not take the easy trans-Siberian railway.

She left Hamburg on July 16 and passed through 14

cities and eight countries on her way to China: Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. During her trip, she kept a travelogue blog.

Europeans tend to know the East only from the media, which has an extreme focus on terrorism, disaster and conflict.

She said Iran was the most impressive part of her journey. "When my mother heard that Iran was included on my trip, she worried about my safety. We read too many reports about terrible things in the media," she said. "People in Teheran were friendly and open, especially the young people. It is important for us to go to the places that have a hostile image to see what they are really like."

However, the experience was different in Maschhad, her second destination in Iran. "It is a different city than Teheran. I felt the Islamic extremism there. Because I didn't wear a headscarf, no one would sell any goods to me," she said. "But it too is part of the country."

Crossing the border of Iran, she was greeted by young men with guns. "They stood there to scare people,

but they still said to me 'Welcome to Iran again,'" she said. "As a writer, I'm considering what kind of content I should give my readers – a real world with different people and cultures."

She posted 57 articles during her trip from Hamburg to Shanghai, and 15 were related to China.

The 41-year-old Uebel has a reputation for traveling to unusual places, such as the Antarctic, and her adventures play a part in her novels.

In her 2005 novel *Horror Vacui*, Uebel told the story of four extreme tourists who adventure to the Antarctic to seek the meaning of life.

In order to get experience for the novel, Uebel spent three weeks learning to ski in Antarctica with three professional athletes. She took 10-hour daily ski walks carrying a 100-kilogram pack.

The athletes told her it was unnecessary to undertake such tough training, but she insisted: in the end, she was the only person picked by the coach to visit the pole.

Her next trip will be from Greenland to Alaska to experience the icescape of the North Pole.

Photo provided by Goethe-Institut China



Timezone 8 book listing

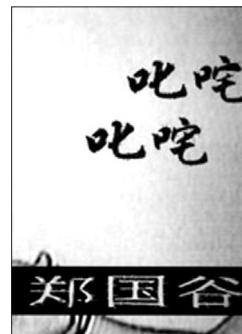
Timezone 8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it recommends three new titles to *Beijing Today* readers.



Desires Without Limits: The Recent Works of Zhang Xiaotao

By Abel H. Pozuelo, 68pp, Timezone 8, \$30

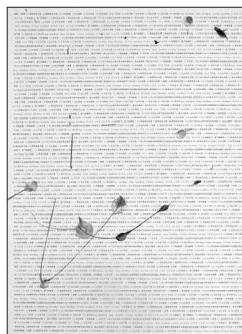
Zhang Xiaotao's paintings, installations and animated videos focus on psychologically charged symbols – feasting ants, rotting strawberries – suggesting and eliciting powerful and conflicting affective states.



Zheng Guogu: Cross Back and Forth Quickly

By Hou Hanru, Chen Tong and Hu Fang, 384pp, Timezone 8 / Shangh Art, \$40

Staged and composite photographs, digitally manipulated Japanese porn films, scribbled ink paintings, photo-collages on rice paper, installations of toys and model motorcycles, performances, cast-iron Coke bottle sculptures, tanks made of bread and then stir-fried, Zheng does it all in this book.



Wei Jia: 2004-2008

By Wei Jia, 170pp, Timezone 8, \$50

Much admired by the younger art audience in China, Wei, born in 1975, makes thickly textured paintings of what he describes as "radically sanguine" themes, generally of a personal or somewhat bittersweet nature, and often allegorical – such as a young man holding a bouquet in one hand, and scattering petals with the other – they project both melancholy and wonder.

(By He Jianwei)

Discovering Chiang Kai-shek through his diaries



Seeking a Real Chiang Kai-shek: Interpretation of Chiang Kai-shek's Diaries II

By Yang Tianshi, 372pp, Huawen Publishing House, 38 yuan

By He Jianwei

When the Hoover Institute of Stanford University announced the availability of photocopies of Chiang Kai-shek's diaries in 2006, serious study of Chiang Kai-shek became a hot topic for Chinese historians.

Yang Tianshi, 74, a historian from the Chinese Academy of Social Science, has been to the US four times since 2006, each time spending 8 to 9 months poring over the 53 years' worth of text.

He attempts to discover the real Chiang in two books, *Seeking the Real Chiang Kai-shek: Interpretation of Chiang Kai-shek's Diaries*, the first of which was published in 2008, and the second this June.

Chiang's diaries date back as far as 1917, when he began his rise to power and took over the Kuomintang around 1931; his World War II diaries span 1932 to 1945; his postwar diaries cover 1946 to 1955; and his final diaries span 1956 to 1972.

The Hoover Institute has preserved the handwritten diaries since Chiang family members deposited them there in 2005.

"Chiang's diaries were primarily written for himself rather than

ten with his future legacy in mind," Yang said.

Yang does not agree that Chiang's purpose in the diaries was to praise himself or leave a good image to future generations. He cursed people close to him and wrote private, even confessional material in his diaries.

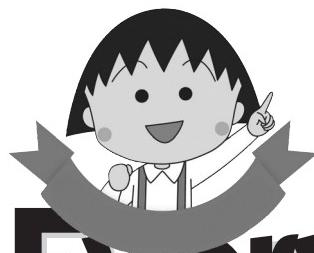
From Chiang's earliest diaries, Yang found five serious flaws in his character: he was lascivious, skeptical, irritable, capricious and eccentric. "But he was influenced by traditional Chinese philosophy, such as Confucianism and Taoism, so he reflected upon these flaws in his diaries," Yang said.

The books offer an intensely personal window into Chiang's mind at certain important historical moments.

Yang's latest book argued that Chiang did not announce a policy of nonresistance in the September 18 Incident in 1931, when Japanese suddenly attacked Shenyang.

"On the night of September 18, 1931, Chiang was on a warship from Nanjing to Jiangxi Province. He only heard about the attack the next day," Yang said.

Yang also discusses Chiang's foreign policy during World War II and his later life in Taiwan.



By Wang Yu

For 24 years, 9-year-old Maruko has been wearing the same yellow shirt and red skirt. But no matter how humble her circumstances, she has always imagined a bright future.

The Japanese comic and cartoon character is familiar to China's '80s generation, who have spread the character from MSN buddy icons to McDonald's advertisements.

But now Maruko is turning up on micro-blogs, finding new popularity with her kernels of ordinary wisdom.

Everyone loves Maruko

Annie Bai, a 25-year-old high school teacher, has been a loyal McDonald's patron since September. Every time she goes she orders a Happy Meal with one of the 12 new Maruko toys.

"I think I ate at every McDonald's in Chaoyang District to collect these [six]. Now most of the restaurants are out of Maruko toys; I'll have to shop online for the rest," Feng says. A complete set of the popular figurines sells for more than 150 yuan.

Bai is not alone in her obsession.

Maruko has a shocking number of admirers in China, especially among young women born in the 1980s. The 9-year-old student is portrayed as a simple, naive optimist: one that is also lazy, disorganized and habitually late for school.

But more importantly, Maruko has the distinction of being one of the first Japanese cartoon characters in China.

"I can still remember the first time that I saw Maruko on Phoenix TV in 1995. The mainland hadn't imported the TV series, so what I was seeing was a dub done by Taiwanese voice actors," says Wen Xiaowei, an IT engineer.

With few areas licensed to carry the Phoenix TV signal, early followers of Maruko's televised adventures were a niche. Like many boys that saw the broadcast, Wen found the character funny, but decidedly uncool.

She entered the hearts of mainland children not on the airwaves, but on covers of notebooks, pencil boxes and bags. With no licensed importer, the cult character was quickly appropriated by pirate school goods makers, few of whom had any regard for copyrights.

Together with Doraemon and Saint Seiya, Maruko became an icon of the collective childhoods of the '80s generation.

Her sudden reappearance some two generations later may owe as much to the cartoon's enduring message as to nostalgia.

Fans have long been collecting and circulating Maruko quotes online. The list is still being maintained, with its latest popular addition the sage advice, "People will experience something good eventually as long as they stay alive." The quotations have become a staple of Chinese micro-blogs.

One of the most enduring episodes is about hot pot. While most families fill a hot pot with a variety of meats and vegetables, Maruko's poor family could only afford cheap vegetables and rice cakes. All the characters agree that it's still a great meal because they could share it with their family.

"Maruko's happiness is touching and warm moments in ordinary life. Her words may be simple, but they are always full of wisdom if you read them a second time," says Song Nannan, a photographer.

"Her life in the comic is similar to mine when I was a kid. We didn't have money to buy fancy things, but we found happiness even from a simple meal," Song says.



Origins of Maruko

Maruko's first story was published under the title "Chibi Marukochan" in the August 1986 edition of *Ribbon*, a monthly collection of comics for young girls.

The character's name was the nickname of author Miura Miki during primary school. Classmates gave her the nickname because she was very short: *maru* is the Japanese word for a small ball.

Maruko was born on May 8, 1965. She shares a birthday with the author.

Miura once said she wanted to write "essays in manga form." Many of Maruko's stories are inspired by the author's life experiences. Some characters are based on family and friends. The resulting nostalgic, honest and thoughtful tone contributed to Maruko's popularity.

The first animated TV series aired from 1990 to 1992. In 1995, on Fuji TV began broadcasting a second TV series. That series is continuing today.

The trademark expression of Maruko characters is a reaction to awkward situations. When a character feels embarrassed, his or her face is marked with vertical lines as a gust of wind blows by. This technique influenced the styles of many other Japanese comic artists.



Words of wisdom

"I would rather sleep on my own than celebrate with others."

"You always have to give adults space."

"We are still kids. Don't try to be someone else."

"It is painful to pass through customs."

"The New Year is a trap where kids band together to slay adults' wallets."

"People will experience something good eventually as long as they stay alive."

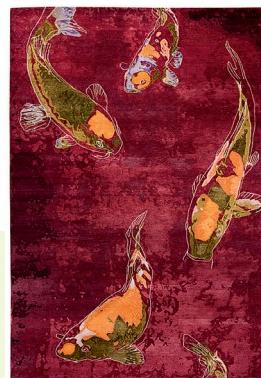


CFP Photo



A rug reflecting nature, with bees, locusts and other insects. What's special about this rug is its use of vegetable dye instead of chemical dye. Vegetable dye, which takes much longer to prepare, is rarely used nowadays.

High-class rugs for the upper class



Chinese carp are a sign of successful business and abundant life.



The water lily series experiments with different moments of lighting and shadow.

A rug made of 100 percent silk. Customers can tailor their order so that their rug has more or less silk, in conjunction with wool. The more silk, the softer the rug. Silk also brings out the rug's glossy texture.



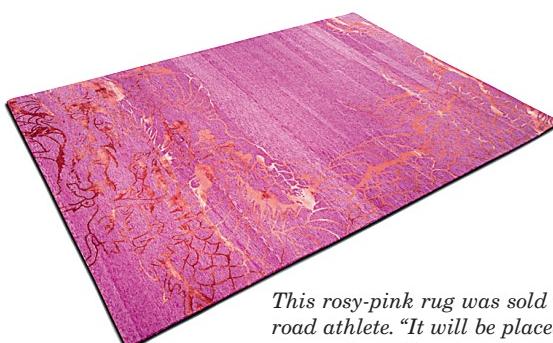
Traditional Persian rug pattern with the latest colors, like pink and green. It's a bold choice for most Chinese customers," Zhang said.



The dragon pattern series is popular among Chinese customers.



This is the "Let Children Help Children" series, which is popular among European customers. The Rugstar design team visited orphanages and encouraged the children there to paint. Every rug quickly sells out, with 30 percent of the profit donated to the brand's foundation in Nepal. The foundation aims to help the children of rug makers.



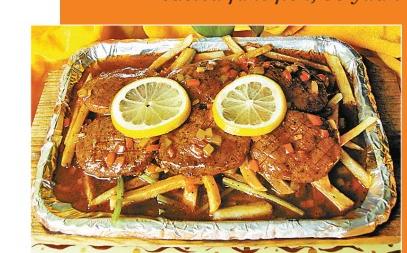
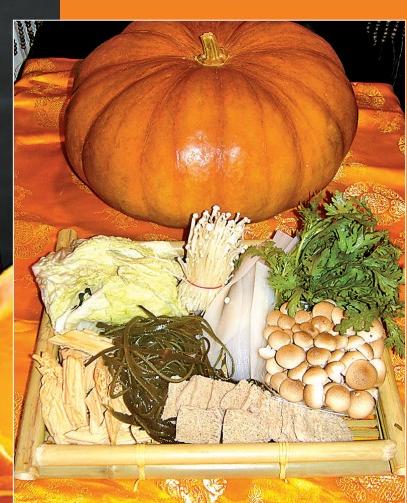
This rosy-pink rug was sold to an off-road athlete. "It will be placed around gray sofas," Zhang said. "I think it's a great choice because the pink color warms up the entire room and adds a soft touch that complements the buyer's personality."

Photos provided by Rugstar

Rugstar

Where: First floor, Soho, 5, Xinyuanlu Nan Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 8 pm
Tel: 6447 4278

When it's good to be a vegetarian



By Wang Yu

Some environmentalists like to say that one of the most overlooked yet significant causes of global warming is the meat industry. The carbon emission from raising cattle is much higher than driving a SUV.

Saying this is unlikely to convert any meat-eaters into vegetarians. Perhaps here's a better sell for carnivores: you can eat food that looks and tastes like meat, only it isn't. And it's healthier. How about it?

Nianhua Shiyuan, a vegetarian restaurant located at Houhai, may in fact create "fake" meat that tastes better than the real stuff. Using tofu, gluten, fungus and a variety of sauces and peppers, chefs make dishes that taste like steak, pork and fish.

It is said that this cooking style was created by Buddhist monks who wanted to satisfy their taste buds without breaking any scriptures. Several restaurants around

the city have taken to the "fake meat" industry.

Nianhua Shiyuan opened in March, and has been recommended for its location and uniqueness. The shop owner, a Buddhist, insists on only using healthy ingredients, which means the dishes come free of MSG, garlic, animal fat and sauces extracted from meat. All the chefs share the same belief.

The house is decorated in a traditional Chinese style, with dark red and gold as the prominent colors. Elements of Buddhism are apparent in paintings, calligraphy scrolls and books around the restaurant.

In the middle is a huge wooden table, with an intact tree root in the corner of the room.

Especially good are the fungus and tea plant mushroom

dishes cooked in hot pot stock.

The specialty, though, is the "fake meats" such as Yuanyang steak (88 yuan), which is made of wheat gluten and tofu. The taste is a little sweet but still comparable to real steak. The sauce is great when mixed with rice.

"Haitail fish" is cooked in much the same way. A more traditional vegetarian dish is the pumpkin cup (88 yuan), which uses a hollowed out pumpkin as a base and has tea plant mushrooms inside. After you eat the stuffing, you can work on the pumpkin.

This winter, the restaurant is offering a new vegetarian hot pot series with a variety of soup bases, including tomato, ginseng and mushroom flavors.

Nianhua Shiyuan

Where: A 4, Binhai Hutong, Denei Dajie (northern bank of Houhai,) Xicheng District

Open: 10 am – 11 pm

Tel: 8403 3998

Photos provided by Nianhua Sishui

Yogurt war

Big and small brands compete for market share

By Annie Wei

A small brand of yogurt has emerged out of obscurity to become the "it" brand, available in small groceries across northern China.

Xiaoxiniu Qinghai is a traditional butter-based yogurt that has been produced around Tibet for 800 years. This brand only entered the national market in May 2008, thanks to the Qinghai-Tibet railway, which allowed tourists to bring this yogurt to other parts of China. Online sales boomed as a result.

Qinghai yogurt costs 5 yuan for 145 grams, which is triple the price of

most fruity flavor domestic brands. Its manager, Wang Weisheng, said they could never lower the price because of transportation costs, since the company is based in Qinghai Province.

Unlike most yogurts, Qinghai yogurt does not use lactic acid bacteria. Wang said their materials are of a higher quality – yak's milk, for instance – and many consumers have said Qinghai yogurt has an authentic flavor. Its texture is thicker than other yogurts, almost resembling tofu or soft cheese.

Other dairy giants like Mengniu,

Yili and Sanyuan have produced "vintage" yogurts, trying to capitalize on the trend. Regional flavors, such as Mengniu's Inner Mongolian flavor and Sanyuan's Old Beijing, are popular too, at just 5 yuan.

Beijing Today checked out a few supermarket chains in town and found that Mengniu, Sanyuan and Herun brands are the most available. To try Xiaoxiniu Qinghai yogurt, one can shop on Taobao, where a package of 12 costs 45 yuan.

Photos by Ding Chunhan/CFP



One can find these yogurts from supermarkets like 7-11, BGH, April Gourmet and small groceries, at 3 to 5 yuan each.



Experimental dramas from Edinburgh

By He Jianwei

Founded in 1947, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (the Fringe) has become one of the world's largest art festivals. Last year, its more than 2,000 shows attracted 1.8 million people over three weeks.

Since 2008, a company called Milky Way Arts and Communications has brought highlights of the Fringe to local audiences. For a three-week span starting November 10, it will produce three dramas from last year's Fringe that explore modern society and human sentiment.

Starring a couple on the brink of marriage, a moody teenage and a psychotherapist, the first drama, *If That's All There Is*, is a mini-epic full of yearning, envy, disappointment and panic, and rethinks people's obsession with feeling happy at any cost.

Inspired by Peggy Lee's hit song "Is That All There Is?" this is the second show from Inspector Sands, a five-year-old company and winner of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Prize 2009.

"Despite the endless efforts of industry, commerce, advertising, self-help and healthy-eating to improve our lives of comfort and satisfaction in

the UK, we do not seem to be any happier and are ever-obsessed with finding new ways to find happiness," Ben Lewis, one of the founders of the company, said.

The Oxford Playhouse created *One Small Step* to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the moon landing last year. It tells the story of the US-Soviet space race from the first Sputnik satellite in 1957 to the splashdown of Apollo 11 in 1969.

"It is the greatest scientific achievement in human history and makes people believe that our long-term survival is dependent on us leaving the Earth. The climate change and the eventual exhaustion of the Earth's resources have alerted us to avoid self-destruction. But in the new century, it is inevitable for us to leave our planet," said David Hastings, playwright of this drama.

The last is *Home of the Wriggler* by Stan's Cafe, a docu-drama about a factory in Birmingham when BMW announced it was looking to dispose of MG Rover in 2000. It is based on interviews with former Rover employees. It contrasts the detail of individual life with the sweep of history and economic progress.

5 Friday, October 29

Exhibition

One Man's Island – Jin Shan's Solo Show

This exhibition includes 50 videos that the artist completed over a year and a half, including manuscripts, sources of inspiration and drafts.

Where: Platform China Contemporary Art Institute, Space A, 319, Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 5, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 0091

Movie

April Bride (2009)

The film is based on the true story of Chie Nagashima, a young woman who is diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer but keeps the information from her boyfriend. When he finds out, he decides to plan a wedding before her death.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitai, Haidian

District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 8229 6153

Nightlife

Devs 2010 China Tour

Consisting of Sara Lov, Dustin O'Halloran, Ed Maxwell, Theodore Liscinski and Evan Schnabel, this American pop band's music is described as melancholic.

Where: Mako Livehouse, 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 160 yuan advance purchase, 200 yuan at the door

Tel: 5205 1112



6 Saturday, October 30

Exhibition

Threads – Textiles and Fiber in the Works of African American Artists

This exhibition presents five African American artists who employ textiles and fiber in their works on paper, sculpture and video installations.

Where: Eli Klein Fine Art, 22 International Art Plaza, 32 Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 18, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5807 4927

Movie

Metal and Melancholy (1994)

The film documents Peru's inflationary economy and a government destabilized by corruption and Shining Path

terrorists in the 1990s. Many middle-class car owners became de facto taxi drivers to weather the financial crisis.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students

Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife

Erez Eisenman

This singer/songwriter plays the guitar and harp and will perform with Indonesian drummer Charles Bronson and Chinese bassist Wang Yuhong.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6401 4611

Best of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival If That's All There Is

When: November 10-14, 7:30 pm

One Small Step

When: November 17-21, 7:30 pm

Home of the Wriggler

When: November 24-28, 7:30 pm

Where: Nine Theater (TNT), Chaoyang Culture Center, 17 Jintai Li, Chaoyang District

Admission: 150-280 yuan,

60 yuan for students

Tel: 6551 6930, 6551 6906

Upcoming

Nightlife

Hoomei by Gangzi

Hoomei, a Mongolian type of singing, is featured in Gangzi's performance of Mongolian folk songs.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: November 11, 9 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6401 4611

Stage in December

Concert

Fou Ts'ong Piano Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-600 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Maksim Mrvica Piano Recital

Where: Beijing Exhibition Center Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: December 4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-1,500 yuan

Tel: 5129 7260

Wolfram Schmitt-Leonard Piano Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: December 12, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

New Year Concert by Wiener Johann Strauss Walzer Orchester

Where: Center Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: December 29-30, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-880 yuan

Tel: 6462 8470

Dance

Swan Lake

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 9-12, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Jane Eyre

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 9-23, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Grand Expectations

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: December 16-19, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-880 yuan

Tel: 6551 8058

Opera

Farewell to Cambridge

Where: Multi-functional Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 15-19, 7:30 pm

Admission: 200-320 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Movie

An Education (2009)

Jenny Mellor, a 16-year-old schoolgirl, falls in love with playboy David Goldman, who easily persuades Mellor's parents to approve of their relationship. When Goldman proposes marriage, Mellor accepts and drops out of school. But she then discovers that Goldman is already married.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 4 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008



Get back into your workout routine

By Li Zhixin

Zhao Da, a 28-year-old programmer, had decided to make a change in his life and start exercising last Saturday, but during the workout he felt severe abdominal pain and later vomited on his way home from the gym.

Years of busy work have kept Zhao out of the gym. Even though he was always unsatisfied with his figure, it wasn't until he was diagnosed with high blood lipids and a fatty liver that he was motivated enough to take action.

"I eat a lot every evening and barely exercise because I often work overtime. So the doctor suggested that I should eat less and exercise daily," he said.

Many who spend long hours at the office share Zhao's problems.

Zhang Tingting, 32, a press editor, has fond memories of exercising with her friends at the university, but since graduating her life has become sedentary.

She went with her friend to her old campus last month to relive the old experiences, but an hour of running and exercising on the horizontal bars triggered her chronic neck pain.

"I just wanted to reclaim my younger condition, but I realized I don't have the kind of energy I did when I was in school. Rather than helping me, this kind of strenuous exercise actually further damaged my health," she said.

This erratic approach to fitness is common among office workers and recent graduates, said Lu Yifan, a professor in the Human Movement Science Department at Beijing Sport University.

"Muscle turns flabby if you don't use it for a long time. After that, sudden strenuous exercise will throw your body out of balance," he noted.

For example, someone with bad joints who starts jumping can damage the muscles around their legs, arms and waist along with the bones, joints and connective tissue because these areas have not been conditioned for such a shock.

If your condition is poor, you can also scratch swimming off your exercise list: it is far more strenuous than it appears. The cold water and pressure adds to the strain on your heart and can make you dizzy.

People with high blood pressure should avoid bike exercise because bicycling rapidly increases both heart rate and blood pressure. "Tai chi and simple gym exercises can help to reduce blood pressure, but you must strictly control the duration of your workout," he said. "Don't let your heart rate exceed 100-300 beats per minute."

If you have problems with your neck, avoid the shoulder press and bench press machines because these put a huge strain on the neck muscles. "Consider full body movements like swimming and gymnastics where you can control your motion," he said.

Lu said jogging is the best exercise for people who want to resume a workout after long periods of inactivity. Jogging is a moderate exercise and can be adjusted to the jogger's physical condition. Even at a slow pace it helps strengthen the lungs and heart, increasing their capacity and efficiency.

"Jogging can provide 8 to 12 times the amount of oxygen you take in by sitting still," he said.

Dumbbells and pushups are also recommended to rebuild shoulder, back and arm muscles.

Gradually adjust exercise intensity upwards. After a long break from exercise, it's best to attempt only half the intensity of your last workout. Try to stagger workouts so you exercise every other day for 30 minutes. In a pinch, 10 to 15 minutes of housework and stair climbing can be a substitute.

"But you can never make up for time missed at the gym. If you do too much strenuous activity it can damage your immune system, and you'll have to take a lot of time off to heal. Although working out is important for your health, safety is more important," he said.



CFP Photo

Avoid calcium loss this winter

By Li Zhixin

Adults can easily run a calcium deficit during winter. The cold weather and lack of activity deplete calcium stores, and the monotonous diet limits the intake of new calcium: a problem compounded by limited sun exposure, which is necessary to produce vitamin D.

"Calcium is like drift sand in the human body. Young people may seldom pay much attention to store calcium until they get sick," said Zhao Xia, director of nutrition at Beijing Jishuitan Hospital. "Only once they feel fatigued, cramped or achy do they start thinking about whether they need a calcium supplement."

She said supplements are important during late fall and winter, when the body shifts its nutritional needs to make up for the energy burned during spring, summer and fall.

Women between 30 and 50 years tend to be most at risk of calcium loss. Both lactation and menstruation cause a significant loss of calcium and iron. "If you don't take calcium supplements during these times, it can begin to affect your memory," she said.

Aging also causes a depletion of calcium and collagen. Women older than 50 are usually going through menopause — a period when female hormone levels fall

off, along with immunity. Loss of calcium during this period can cause bones to become fragile and worsen arthritis.

Many people may take calcium tablets as a supplement, but these provide far from enough actual calcium. "People can only absorb 20 percent of the organic calcium in a tablet," she said. "The best way to boost your calcium intake is to change your diet."

Drinking milk is the easiest way to supplement calcium, as the naturally-occurring osteoblast milk protein (OMP) can boost bone mineral density. One to two glasses of milk each day are recommended.

The absorption of calcium also

needs the help of vitamin D3, which helps calcium collect in the bones and slows its loss. Vitamin C can also make up for bone collagen deficiency, she said.

"The human body is like a bank and calcium is like the money. You can't overdraw at the bank or you pay a huge penalty, so you have to deposit calcium in advance," she said. "Besides milk, you can eat more shrimp, fish, sesame seeds, day-lily buds, seaweed and bean products to get more calcium."

Vegetables with rich oxalates like spinach, cane shoots and celery interfere with calcium absorption, so try to poach these vegetables in hot water before eating them.

Pulling civilization along on its tracks

By Chu Meng

Railway stations, especially modern ones, are mostly located in city centers, close to the heart of regular people's lives. They are the vessels that physically link city networks.

The relationship between railways and people can craft an interesting narrative about a country's development. For proof, visit the China Railway Museum, built on the relics of an ancient railway station in Beijing, and reopened to the public last weekend after two years of renovation.



The China Railway Museum was built on the site of Zhengyangmen East Railway Station.



The "Dragon" Steam Locomotive was used on China's first railways in 1881.

Photos by Zhang Ying



The "Harmony" high-speed locomotive, with a top speed of 350 kilometer per hour, was independently designed and developed by Chinese engineers.

Station turns into museum

The Zhengyangmen East Railway Station was originally a European style gray building, built by the British during the period of the Guangxu emperor during Qing Dynasty (1644-1912). Covering an area of 3,500 square meters with three 377-meter-long platforms and a 1,500-square-meter waiting room, it was the biggest transportation hub in China at the time.

Locals called it the Qianmen Railway Station because of its location at Qianmen, just southeast of Tian'anmen Square.

The ancient station changed with the changing of power, from the end of the Qing Dynasty to the early years of the Republic, the Beiyang Warlords government, Japanese puppet rule, Kuomintang rule and on through to the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

The name of the station has changed, too, from Zhengyangmen to Beiping East Station and finally to Qianmen Station. The building became obsolete on September 15, 1959, when Beijing Railway Station was opened.

Some long-time Beijingers may recall the story of how the ancient station was saved from demolition in the 1970s, when Beijing was about to construct the Qianmen station on the Line 2 subway.

"After furious discussions and arguments between railway engineers and cultural heritage protection experts, the government eventually decided to recreate the station from the west of the 'South-North Axis' of the city to its current location, east of the axis," said Zhang Jingren, head of China Railway Museum. The axis is marked with an invisible line that runs from the Drum and Bell Tower to Qianmen Arrow Tower.

Zhang said that many relics survived thanks to the efforts of cultural heritage protection activists.

The northern wall of the transposed station was made using the ancient station's bricks. The rest of the construction was concrete. "Many archeologists suggested we turn the abandoned station into an art museum," Zhang said, citing the D'Orsay Museum in Paris as an example of an abandoned railway station turned into a modern art center.

"But the suggestion failed because, you know, there weren't enough art works that needed exhibition space during that time in Beijing," Zhang said.

Instead, a renovation project of the ancient station began in 2005.

Development of railways

Based on the idea of "renovating it as it was," the gray and white European-style building kept

its ancient exterior while getting a stronger skeleton inside. The project was finished in 2008.

It was soon turned into a four-story museum with an exhibition area of 9,500 square meters, making it the biggest railway museum in the country. It teams with pictures, antiques, explanations of high-speed railway techniques and models of locomotives, tracks, tickets and signal control boards.

The museum's five sections – Start of China Railways, Those Tough Years, Grow with Struggles, Considerable Progress and High-Speed Railway – present 134 years of history.

A steam locomotive stands at the entrance of the museum. It is a replica of one of the oldest trains in Chinese history. With a big zero written on the front, it is known as the No. O steam locomotive.

Manufactured in Britain, it was first used in 1882 during the early days of the Tangxu railway, China's first officially recognized railway, which began to be built in 1876 and was mainly used for transporting coal.

The "Mao Zedong" and "Zhu De" Steam Locomotives are two other must-sees for railway fans. These were two special trains used in the civil war.

Opening his history book,

Zhang said that in 1946, two broken Japanese steam locomotives were put to use after going through 27 days of urgent and immediate repairs. As soon as the trains were renovated they were used for transporting troops and supplies. They played a great role during the war in Harbin, in northeastern China.

In the early 1950s, China began utilizing new techniques and materials in creating old models. One of the most famous steam trains from that era was the Jie Fang 2101, also called the "Guoqing Hao." It was built by workers from the Qingdao Sifang Locomotive and Rolling Stock Component Factory using parts salvaged from an old Japanese steam engine.

It was finished right before National Day in 1950 and was named in honor of the first-year anniversary of the People's Republic.

Another novel feature of the museum is its collection of train tickets from different time periods and places, including Taiwan. Visitors can find train tickets from as far back as the late Qing Dynasty, and tickets of all shapes and designs.

Also on display is an old brick-and-mortar ticket printer that produces hard-backed tickets, which were used way back. Resembling a piece of dried tofu

and made of cardboard paper, tickets looked like this for more than 70 years. This printer is still operational, and you can print a ticket of your own, if you have the strength to do it, for free.

Also on display is a high-speed inter-city light rail train. It's a replica of the one that goes from Shanghai to Hangzhou at 350 kilometers an hour.

Visitors can sit in front of a central control board and experience a 3-D video.

"I saw a helicopter thrown through the window," said an 8-year-old boy after trying the control board.

Information

China Railway Museum comprises three branches. The main branch is in Qianmen, but there is also the Jiuxianqiao Branch, featuring relics and replica locomotives, and the Zhantianyou Branch, a museum in memory of China's first track designer and engineer.

China Railway Museum – Qianmen Branch

Where: Southeast corner of Tian'anmen Square, near Qianmen Station on subway Line 2

Open: 9 am – 4:30 pm, every day except Monday

Tel: 6705 1638

Admission: 20 yuan for adults, 10 yuan for students under 18 years old



The "Mao Zedong" and "Zhu De" Steam Locomotives were special trains used during the civil war.
CFP Photos

Turkey, inspiring wonder with both history and modernity



Sultan Ahmed Camii (Blue Mosque) and the Bosphorus, Istanbul, Turkey

By Qiu Jiaoning

Beijing Today reporter Qiu Jiaoning went to Turkey in mid-October to do research for the "China in Turkey Experience" story that appears in this issue. Here, she shares some of her travel stories.

I spent one week traveling through three major cities in Turkey, Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir. It was a hasty, work-related journey, and I may not remember the names of all the places I saw, but I will never forget the feeling of seeing them for the first time.

The beauty of Istanbul

"If one had but a single glance to give the world, one should gaze on Istanbul."

— French poet and politician Alphonse de Lamartine

Turkey is a country that has unified people from different cultures for thousands of years. While in one part you can experience the mystery of the East, in the other you can explore European history and influences.

This is especially true in Istanbul, where the minarets of mosques poke above residential roofs and share the same block with churches and synagogues. Modern and historical architecture can be seen on the same street, and hidden spots of beauty can be found all across the city.

It was a treat to walk on the street and see the architectural masterpieces of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires in their original setting.

A boat tour on the Bosphorus Strait, connecting the Sea of Marmara with the Black Sea, is a delightful way of seeing Istanbul without setting foot either in Asia

or in Europe. You can also take a boat trip to the Prince Islands if you want to escape the hustle and bustle of the city.

The freedom of Izmir

Izmir, located on the Aegean Coast, has an atmosphere more of Mediterranean Europe than traditional Turkey. It's a good place for a romantic holiday or honeymoon.

The city enjoys a Mediterranean climate plus natural beauty, a rich culture and historical heritage, legacies left by civilizations that existed thousands of years ago. In addition, it boasts a rich cuisine, featuring grapes, figs, olives, citrus fruits and seafood.

A popular spot for evening walks is along the palm-lined Bironce Kordon promenade, which stretches the entire length of the city up to the Alsancak Ferry Terminal.

Izmir has a good selection of culture and entertainment, from the Archaeological and Ethnographic Museums to the Izmir State Opera and Ballet and Izmir State Symphony Orchestra, to many bars and clubs.

The Selcuk District on the Izmir-Aydin Highway prides itself as home to a large number of historic works and ruins, including the House of Virgin Mary (where Mary may have spent her final days) and the ancient city of Ephesus, which used to house the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the

Ancient World.

The hero in Ankara

Ankara, the capital of Turkey, is where to go if you want to learn more about national icon Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Without visiting Anitkabir, the magnificent mausoleum constructed to commemorate Ataturk, one will never really understand Turkish culture.

Anitkabir is an impressive, informative and majestic place where you can appreciate all the vivid statues, grounds, displays about Ataturk, the leader of the Turkish War of Independence and the founder and first president of the Republic of Turkey. While viewing his well-preserved personal items and the vivid display of the independence war, you can't help admiring Ataturk's charming thoughts and heroic deeds about principles, revolutions and modernization, which raised the Turkish nation to the level of modern civilization.

It is presumed that the Ankara Citadel, rising on top of a hill dominating Ankara, was constructed during the Galatian period. As the oldest part of the city, the area around the ancient castle has experienced a rejuvenation with the restoration of many interesting old Turkish houses, and the opening of several art galleries and fine restaurants which feature examples of traditional Turkish cuisine.

Tips



A grand bazaar stand in Istanbul

1. If you are not keen on swimming or surfing, October is a nice season to visit, as you'll avoid the crowds and hot weather.

2. Although 99 percent of Turkish people are of the Islamic faith, females don't need to wear a burka or worry about their safety. Turkish women, in fact, are very fashionable.

3. As Turkey is a country with a long history, almost all of its famous sites have historical stories. Learn some Turkish history before you visit to get

the most of your experience.

4. This is a country full of interesting places, so you may want to plan to stay a few extra days.

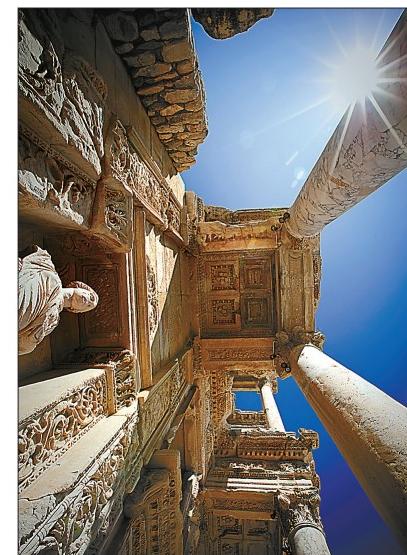
5. Bring a shawl. It's useful when you want to have a morning or evening walk along the seaside or have some drinks in cafes along the waterfront.

(Some information and photos provided by Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Information Section of Turkish Embassy in China)



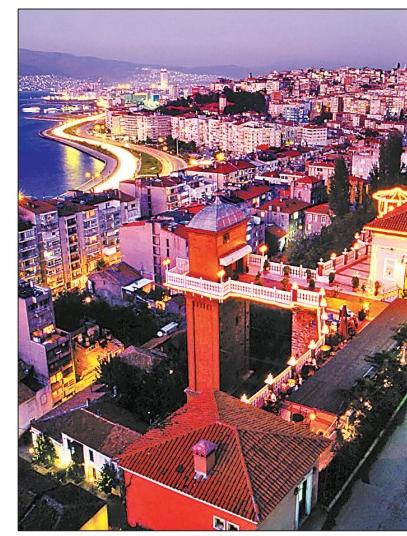
Turkish women pray at Blue Mosque

CFP Photo



The library of Celsus in Ephesus, one of the largest and most important cities in the ancient Mediterranean world.

IC Photos



Izmir, located on the Aegean Coast

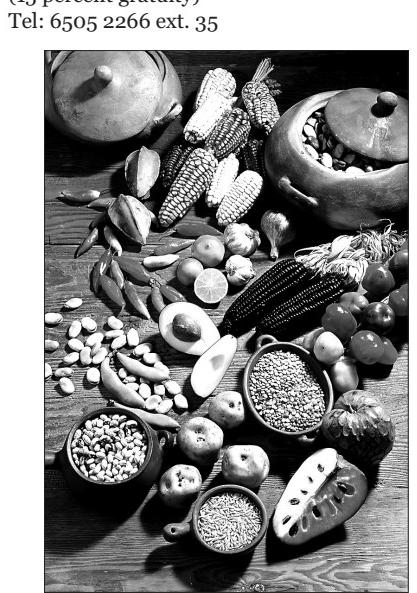
Dining



Taste of Malaysia at Scene a Cafe

Scene a Cafe head chef Justin Kam, a native Malaysian with more than 20 years of culinary experience, invites discerning food lovers to experience the flavors, aromas and colors of exotic Malaysian cuisine at Scene a Cafe's lunch and dinner buffet. The menu will highlight exquisitely crafted dishes such as Kerabu Mangga, Nyonya Curry Kapi-tan and Assam Prawn.

Where: China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District
When: November 8-21
Cost: 258 yuan for lunch, 298 yuan for dinner (15 percent gratuity)



A Peruvian journey

Don't miss the chance to see decorated chef Reto Steinemann and his culinary team here from the Swissotel Lima in Peru. Reto is presenting a fresh, healthy and pure Peruvian cuisine with a hint of Spanish zest. Buffet and a la carte menus will be available at Cafe Swiss during his time here.

Where: Cafe Swiss, Swissotel Beijing, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: October 30 — November 13, 11:30 am — 2 pm, 6-10 pm
Cost: 198 yuan for lunch, 228 yuan for dinner (15 percent gratuity)

Spanish cuisine

Experience the unique flavors and colors of Spanish cuisine and make a culinary journey from Andalusia to Catalonia. The Spanish kitchen features a selection of brilliantly prepared tapas and classic main dishes showcasing the very best of Spain's culinary heritage. The Spanish selection forms part of a full dinner buffet with seafood, sushi, sashimi, Western, Southeast Asian, Japanese and Chinese cuisines, not to mention impressive desserts and ice creams.

Where: 25 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District
When: November 1 — December 15

Cost: 188 yuan for dinner, includes free wine, soft drinks and draft beer
Tel: 8235 6699

Red rib and rip

Come in for prime short ribs presented in six flavors at Chef Eric's famous "A la Carte Buffet" dinner with free red wine. Ladies eat half price and can get a free after-dinner drink at the Collage Bar by presenting their "ripped bill" from Cafe Noir.

Where: Cafe Noir, 2 Dongsihuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until November 30
Cost: 188 yuan
Tel: 5907 8416



White truffles

Throughout November, Cepe is delighted to present a special menu featuring white truffles. Indulge and savor in dishes that are delicately perfumed by intensely-flavored precious mushrooms from Alba. Choose to indulge in an exquisite four-course set menu or opt for Cepe's signature a la carte white truffle dishes, such as smoked goose liver with chestnut cream and white truffles, egg tagliolini with white truffles, roasted Wagyu tenderloin with braised oxtail and white truffles and plenty of additional white truffles shaved tableside. Come and taste one of Italy's finest exports.

Where: The Ritz-Carlton Beijing Financial Street, 1 Jinchengfang Dong Jie, Xicheng District
Tel: 6601 6666



New menu at One East

Come and tantalize your palate with Louisiana-style gourmet dishes and a tempting Chocolate Set Menu at One East. The signature dishes in this new menu are the New Orleans Seafood Medley, fusion-style Duo of Australian Lamb, Confit of Norwegian Salmon Fillet and Crispy Kurobuta Pork with a Thai-style tamarind glaze. One East is also releasing its new Chocolate Set Menu to offer warmth during the harsh weather. The creative combinations are sure to satisfy every chocoholic in town.

Where: One East, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Chaoyang District
When: From October 13
Tel: 5865 5030

Hotel

Tourism for Tomorrow award

At the 10th Global Travel and Tourism Summit held in Beijing on May 26, Accor was presented with the Tourism for Tomorrow Award in Global Tourism Business. The award acknowledges Accor's accomplishments in demonstrating effective, environmentally-sensitive operations and management, educating guests and employees about sustainable tourism practices, supporting cultural and natural heritage preservation and collaborating with private and public stakeholders to promote sustainable tourism.

Motivated by the award, all of Beijing's Accor Hotels have decided to raise awareness about environmental issues by creating a new green path to link all the hotel's Beijing properties. Whether by using subway, bicycle, bus, skates or electric bikes, the hotel aims to show the effectiveness of clean transport.

Joy time at Sunworld Dynasty

Sunworld Dynasty Hotel Beijing is ready to make your yearly festivities extra special. Several multi-functional banquet venues in the hotel can be tailored to clients' every need. Dynasty Plaza on the third floor is one of the largest atrium plazas in the Asia-Pacific region, and the Grand Ballroom on the second floor can accommodate a variety of events ranging in size from small to large.

The fashionable decorations, advanced facilities and professional banquet service team will ensure your occasion is a complete success.

Where: Sunworld Dynasty Hotel Beijing, 50 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 5816 8888

De-stress this weekend

Escape with your loved ones to Traders Upper East Hotel Beijing for 888 yuan per night for a single room and 1,228 yuan for a double Superior Room with exclusive benefits. Enjoy a complimentary buffet breakfast at Cafe Noir; pickup service from Beijing Capital International Airport; a 90-minute I SPA signature massage; free access to the fully-equipped gym, indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, steam bath and sauna; and check out as late as 4 pm. A two-night minimum stay is required for eligibility. All prices will be billed a 15 percent gratuity surcharge.

Where: Traders Upper East Hotel Beijing, 2 Dongsihuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5907 8338

Aviation

British Airways celebrates 30 years in China

To celebrate 30 years of operations in China, British Airways is offering special fares to London. From October 26 until December 10, British Airways' customers can book a return World Traveler (economy) fare from Beijing or Shanghai to London, and to other destinations in the UK and Europe, from just 3,980 yuan, or book a return fare in World Traveler Plus (premium economy) from 9,880 yuan between October 26 and March 31.

Customers can book tickets, reserve seats, check in and print boarding passes online at ba.com. For more information and to book tickets, visit britishairways.com/travel/home/public/en_cn.

SIA starts Tokyo Haneda service

Singapore Airlines flight SQ634, carrying 246 customers, departed this afternoon on its inaugural journey from Singapore Changi Airport to Tokyo Haneda Airport. With the introduction of twice-daily Tokyo Haneda flights, served by a Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, SIA is offering new opportunity for travel to the Japanese capital.

Singapore Airlines now operates 47 weekly flights to and from Japan. In addition to twice-daily flights to both Tokyo Narita and Tokyo Haneda, the airline operates daily flights to both Nagoya and Osaka, and a five-times-weekly flight to Fukuoka. Customers interested in booking flights can visit singaporeair.com.

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Sexretary and Togayther?



By Zhao Hongyi

China is making an effort to crack down on Chinglish while promoting proper English usage. But Chinese netizens only seem interested in creating more Chinglish words and phrases, to "enrich the vocabulary of English and hope to leave their influences."

This week, a Chinese journalist friend of mine, Tao Jin, came to me saying that we journalists were being called "jokarlists."

"Jokarlist?" I asked, "Like, people think we're joking in the papers?"

"No, today Chinese people blame journalists for the increasing number of stories about stars from all walks and corners of life, and stories with a lot of sex and immorality," the friend said. "The word is a portmanteau of 'joker' and 'journalist.'"

He gave me two related words: "sexretary" and "togayther."

Bosses seem to impose physical standards in the selection of female secretaries, so netizens combined the words "sex" and "secretary" to describe the situation.

"Togayther" is a word used to describe same-sex marriages, as homosexuality is slowly becoming increasingly accepted in China.

Other examples abound. During spring festival, a group of Chinese tourists in New York made the *New York Times* for being big spenders. They were thus labeled "chinsumers" by netizens, describing the trend of rich Chinese consumers going abroad for lavish spending sprees.

"You know what 'vegeteal' means?" Tao asked.

I had no idea.

"There's an online game where players steal vegetables from their counterparts, and they do it both night and day in real time. There are tens of millions of online players." To describe the phenomenon, "vegeteal" is a combination of the words "vegetable" and "steal."

Other creative new words: "Circusee" – surround and watch; "smilence" – an elegant smile in silence; and "don'train" – don't plus train, referring to the high price of high-speed trains the country is currently building.

At the rate these portmanteaus are being created, some are bound to enter the lexicon – becoming untouchable to even the most thorough of anti-Chinglish campaigns.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week

1. When the political situation changed, so did the art and culture changed.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): This is a typical sentence with "so" serving as an adverb meaning "likewise, in such a way, to such a degree." I'll show you some examples on the usage of "so" in such a sense: She likes dogs, so does he. You are clever and so is your son. He quickened his pace and so did I. If he is allowed to leave, so I should be. From these examples, we may see that "changed" in the main clause of the sample sentence is redundant, so it should be omitted. The right way to say it should be: When the political situation changed, so did the art and culture. Please take note of the word order of the main clause with "so": it is inverted.

Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): Would it be possible to put "changed" in front? No, I think then we would have to change the "when" to "as": As the political situation changed, so changed the art and culture. It sounds a bit stuffy this way, but used correctly, it may give a needed emphasis on the nature of the change. Professor Zhu's solution is the better one.

2. To pressure and to pressurize

ZS: A few days ago, I came across a sentence which says, Don't pressure your doctor. One of the students asked whether it is right to say, "Don't pressurize your doctor." Though both are intransitive verbs, they have some shades of difference in meaning and usage. As you know, "to pressure" means "to force or urge by exerting pressure," for instance, The salesman tried to pressure my father into buying the car. The legislators cannot be pressured into voting for something that is unconstitutional. "To pressurize" basically means "to keep the atmospheric pressure inside (a cabin) at a normal level in spite of the altitude, to place under high pressure." For instance, The pilot will have to be provided with air, presumably by pressurizing his cabin. Sometimes they are interchangeable. You may mean bearing pressure upon somebody by using the verb "to pressurize"; for instance, The council was pressurized into passing a resolution.

TBZ: "Don't pressurize your doctor" sounds to me kind of like you want to put the doctor in the pressure cooker and have him (or her) for dinner – and not "over for dinner"!

3. Towing the line of policy

ZS: This is a funny case in linguistics. When I came across the phrase, I was fairly puzzled. What does it mean? To tow means to pull by a rope or a chain. For instance, The tug is towing three barges. The ship was towed out of port. If you leave your car there you might have it towed by the police. However, can you pull the line of policy? On second thought, I came to see that the writer might mean to say "to toe the line of policy." Yes, it is that. We know that "to toe the line" means having the toes touching the starting line in a race: The runners toed the line, ready to start. It may also mean "to obey" in a stretched sense: The father is strict with his children and they have to toe the line. "To toe" and "to tow" have the same pronunciation. People may unconsciously misspell the word when they actually mean to say "to toe." So, in writing we must be very careful.

TBZ: This is often written as "towing the party line," meaning that a person is following what the people higher up have said. For example, the management in a company may make a decision and the employees have to "tow the party line" and answer to consumers exactly as the management has instructed them to do (whether it makes the consumers happy or not is another question).

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Careful Water

By Terry Boyd-Zhang

The interesting thing about this sign is that, slightly to the right of it where you cannot see, is another sign saying "Lackadaisical Careless Water." Or perhaps it should be inverted, as in "Water! Careful!" Water, in this case, being a person's name.

I suppose we can guess that there is some water nearby and we should be careful not to go for an unplanned swim. Have you seen the signs at the parks with a hapless stick figure falling headfirst into the water? I believe the subway also has this kind of sign but its stickman doesn't fall head first, but feet-first, where he is electrocuted before being squashed by the train.



This is getting a bit morbid. Must be because Halloween is just over and my witch candles have all had their heads burnt off, leaving only their bodies and jack-o'-lanterns.

There is an important language lesson here for beginners of Chinese:

eight simple characters, all fairly useful. First, *shui* means "water." It looks a bit like a fountain, if you use your imagination. *Shen* (deep) is a bit harder but *yi mi* means "one meter." *Mi* is also the same character for "(uncooked) rice" – you may see it on a sign at the market.

The last four characters are important: *zhuyi anquan*, meaning "pay attention to safety" or "careful." This is also what the conductor calls out the bus windows, just before you crash into the bus. Maybe instead of calling, there should be a big sign on the side: Careful Bus, or, perhaps, a picture of a stickman going underneath it headfirst.

Movie of the week

The toys are back one last time! Pixar closes this popular series with a humorous and touching new story of friendship and love.

Toy Story 3 comes 15 years after the first episode stunned audiences worldwide. Tom Hanks and Tim Allen have returned again to provide the voices of star characters Woody and Buzz. The movie shows off some of the latest techniques in computer graphics.

Synopsis

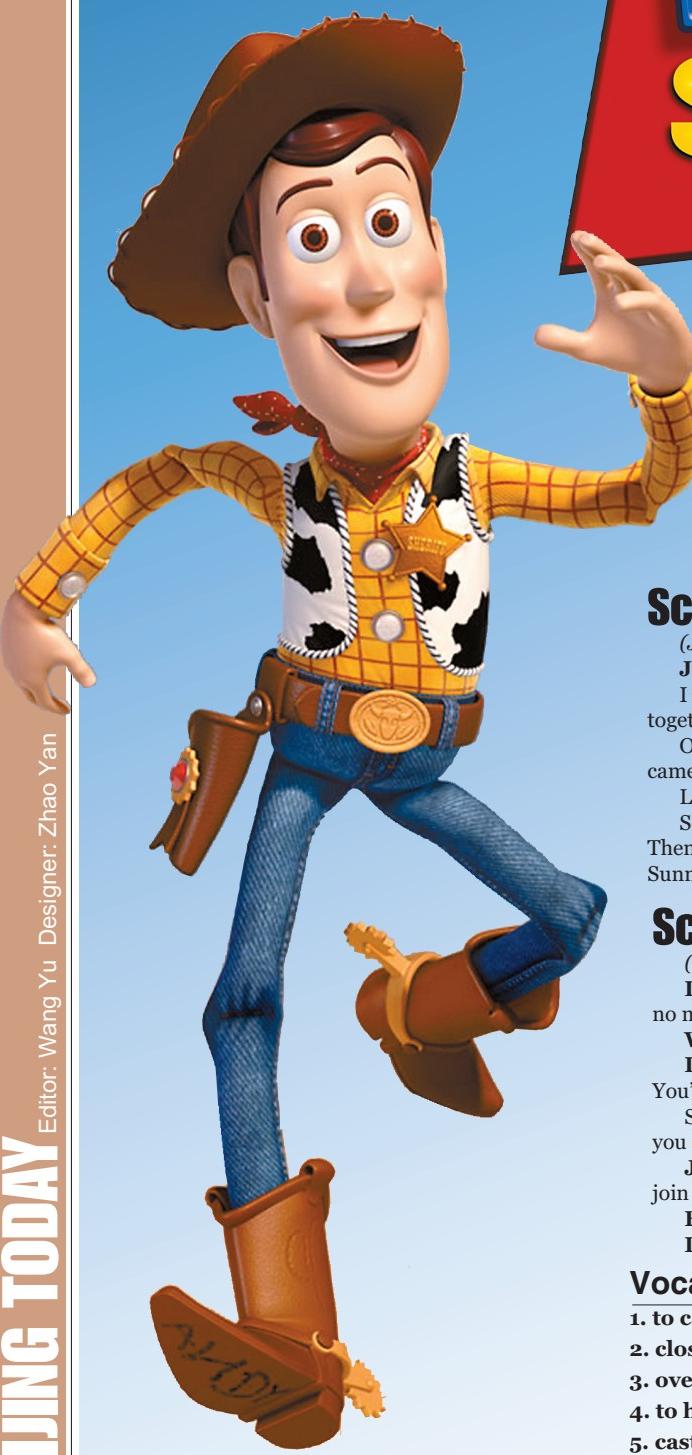
Now 17, Andy has outgrown his old toys and is preparing to move to college. He decides to take Woody with him and packs his other toys in a garbage bag, intending to store them in the attic, but Andy's mom mistakenly puts the bag on the curb.

Believing that Andy no longer wants them, the toys sneak into a box to be donated to Sunnyside Daycare. As the only toy who saw what really happened, Woody tries to clear up the misunderstanding, but they are driven to Sunnyside before he can.

However, Sunnyside is hardly a paradise. After learning the truth, Woody heads back to save his friends by himself.



TOY STORY 3

**Scene 1**

(The toys meet to discuss what to do about Andy heading to college.)

Woody (W): OK. First off, we all knew operation Playtime was a long shot.

Mr. Potato Head (P): More like a misfire.

W: But we've always said this job isn't about getting played with. It's about ...

Jessie (J): Being there for Andy. We know.

Rex: But we can try again! Right?

W: I'm callin' it (1), guys. We're closing up shop (2).

The Toys: What?

W: Andy's going to college any day now. That was our last shot.

Buzz (B): We're going into attic mode, folks. Keep your accessories with you at all times. Spare parts, batteries, anything you need for an orderly transition.

P: Orderly? Don't you get it? We're done! Finished! Over the hill (3)!

W: Hey, hey, hey, now. Come on, guys. We all knew this day was coming.

P: Yeah, but now it's here.

W: Look, every toy goes through this. No one wants to see it. (After the meeting.)

B: You guarantee it, huh?

W: I don't know, Buzz. What else could I say?

B: Well, whatever happens, at least we'll all be together.

W: For infinity and beyond.

Scene 2

(Joker toy tells the story of Lotso, the bear who runs Sunnyside.)

Joker: Yeah, I knew Lotso. He was a good toy. A friend. Me and him, we had the same kid, Daisy. I was there when Lotso got unwrapped. Daisy loved us all. But Lotso, Lotso was special. They did everything together. You've never seen a kid and a toy more in love.

One day, we took a drive. Hit (4) a rest stop. Had a little playtime. After lunch, Daisy fell asleep. She never came back.

Lotso wouldn't give up. It took forever, but we finally made it back to Daisy's. But by then, it was too late.

Something changed that day inside Lotso. Something snapped. We were lost. Cast off (5). Unloved. Unwanted. Then we found Sunnyside. But Lotso wasn't my friend anymore. He wasn't anyone's friend. He took over Sunnyside and rigged the whole system.

Scene 3

(The toys encounter Lotso and his gang while attempting to escape Sunnyside.)

Lotso (L): Well, well. Look who's back. What are y'all doing? Running back to your kid? He don't want you no more.

W: That's a lie.

L: Is it? Tell me this, Sheriff. If your kid loves you so much, why is he leaving? You think you're special, cowboy? You're a piece of plastic. You were made to be thrown away.

Speak of the devil. Now, we need toys in our Caterpillar Room and you need to avoid that truck. Why don't you come on back, join our family again?

J: This isn't a family! It's a prison! You're a liar and a bully (6)! And I'd rather rot in this dumpster than join any family of yours!

Barbie: Jessie's right! Authority should derive from the consent of the governed, not from the threat of force.

L: If that's what you want.

Vocabulary

1. **to call it quits:** to give up
2. **close up shop:** to give up
3. **over the hill:** past one's prime
4. **to hit:** here it means to arrive at
5. **cast off:** rejected
6. **bully:** a person who is habitually cruel to smaller or weaker people

(By Wang Yu)